

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Unqualified

It was to be expected that Communist propaganda would attempt to persuade the world that the Big Four agreement to arrange a Geneva conference to pursue the problem of Korea, and probably that of Indo-China, implied recognition of the Peking regime by the Western Powers. Mr. Anthony Eden, however, has put the record straight by his statements in the House of Commons yesterday. Communist China will not attend the Geneva conference with any special status. It is not a Big Five meeting such as Mr. Molotov so ardently endeavoured to manoeuvre but will be, in fact, a conference based entirely on the United Nations resolution adopted last year for studying the possibilities of agreeing on a Korean peace treaty and the political future of the country. Peking's position at the Geneva parleys will be precisely that of every other nation represented there, and it implies neither international recognition of the Mao Tse-tung Government nor any right for Communist China to be admitted to the United Nations. The latter point is of particular importance, and Mr. Eden very properly made Britain's attitude clear on the subject. Britain's de jure recognition of the Peking regime does not carry with it support for Red China's admission to the UN. That may come in time, but only given certain reassuring actions by Peking—actions which so far have been conspicuous by their absence.

WHEN Mr. Eden declared that Britain's relations with Communist China were far from satisfactory, he was, to many minds, indulging in an understatement. It is nearer the mark to observe that diplomatic relations scarcely exist. The Chinese Communists, themselves have rendered British recognition a mere formality. No attempt has been made by Peking to establish any normal diplomatic affiliations. The British Charge d'Affaires in Peking has been denied any sort of proper status. British notes of protest and others requesting information have either been ignored or peremptorily rejected. Nothing could be further removed from normal than the so-called diplomatic relations between London and Peking. This, as much as anything else, is bound to influence Britain's attitude to the question of Red China's admission to the United Nations. There are no signs as yet that the Peking Government desires to respect international obligations or that it wishes to play any constructive role in that family of nations. And until such signs are given in a positive and convincing manner, there can be no thought of Communist China gaining United Nations membership. At the moment she displays none of the necessary qualifications.

REBELS WIN STRONGHOLD

Withdrawal By French Union Forces FORTRESS LOST

Paris, Mar. 16.

Franco-Vietnamese forces have evacuated the northern stronghold of the besieged mountain fortress of Dien Bien Phu, northern Indo-China, according to reports reaching Paris early today.

This is the second position now in the hands of the Vietminh rebels, waging the fiercest offensive of the Indo-China war to capture the fortress.

After repeated fanatical assaults, French troops were reported to have pulled out of the position early yesterday. Earlier they had launched an infantry counter-attack, supported by heavy tanks.

Reports said the bodies of 1,500 Communists were lying on the barbed wire surrounding the post.—Reuter.

COUNTER-ATTACK

Hanoi, Mar. 15. Out-numbered and surrounded French Union troops defiantly hurled a crashing counter-attack against a Communist attack of up to 40,000 men assaulting Dien Bien Phu in the biggest pitched battle of the Indo-China war.

A French headquarters spokesman said that Colonel Christian De Castries commanding the cut-off fortress, sent paratroopers, Foreign Legionnaires, Moroccan and Vietnamese infantry with bayonets fixed against the encircling Reds in a daylong and desperate battle.

The French counter-attack smashed back after a second Communist assault wave swarmed against the bastion's defence under a quarter moon last night. The engagement lasted all day.

The French rushed fleets of warplanes and maximum artillery against the knock-out effort believed to have been launched against Dien Bien Phu under the personal leadership of crack Red General Vo Nguyen Giap.

FIGHT FOR LIVES
Tank cannon and artillery brought thunder to the fortified valley town 180 miles west of Hanoi where Col. De Castries' men fought for their lives in an outpost cut off like the frontier forts of America's old West.

A Vietminh High Command statement today claimed that Communist Bren guns now dominated the two French airfields at Dien Bien Phu. The attack, the Communist statement said, "wiped out the crack 3rd Battalion of the 13th Foreign Legion Brigade."

French fighter planes and bombers, gathered from all fronts, pounded the fort's attackers with high explosives and thousands of gallons of fiery napalm.

The High Command said that rebel losses were at least 1,000 and probably more so far. Many suicide squads sacrificed themselves.

selves, screaming, to blow a passage through thickets of French barbed wire guarding the defenders. French losses were undisclosed but were described as "severe." — United Press.

2 Rioting Students Killed

Tunis, Mar. 15. French police tonight opened fire with sub-machineguns against several hundred Tunisian students who tried to storm the Dar El Bey, the Tunisian Government offices. Two students were killed, five other demonstrators were reported to be seriously injured and dozens of students and some police were treated for light injuries in the first street rioting in the Tunisian capital for nearly two years.

Tunisian Nationalists claimed that 2,000 students had gathered in the Casbah Square, near the white-washed Government building in the Arab quarter of the town, but French police officers put the number at nearly 500.

At the same time, prisoners in Tunis gaol launched a brief demonstration, shouting anti-French and anti-Government slogans.

Nationalists called for a strike of shopkeepers on Tuesday to protest against today's casualties. Two French police officers were also seriously injured.

The students, who are attached to the Great Mosque, converged on the Casbah Square in four columns carrying Tunisian flags. The ostensible reason of the demonstration was to call on the Ministers for Religious Affairs. General Mohammed Saadallah, to demand a "modernisation" of the statute. The Minister had already twice refused to receive them on Saturday.

Clashing with the police outside the Government building, the students bombarded it with a hail of stones, breaking many windows. Police reinforcements immediately went into action with tear gas bombs dispersing the students, who then sought refuge in the Great Mosque and nearby shops.

It was then that the first shots were fired. The French police claimed that demonstrators fired on them from balconies, but Tunisians alleged that the French were the first to use firearms.—Reuter.

133rd Birthday

Stockholm, Mar. 15. The oldest woman in Poland, Jozefa Szekiewicz, celebrated her 133rd birthday today, according to the Warsaw paper "Express Wieczorny". She still fetches water from the well at Miankowski village, in the Czarnowola district, near Krakow.

ACTRESS LOSES LEG



Susan Ball, the Hollywood film star who had her leg amputated following an accident, smiles happily from her hospital bed. She is rapidly gaining strength, and is looking forward to resuming her film career, and to getting married. Her fiancé has been a constant visitor at her bedside during her stay in hospital.—London Express.

Egyptians Fire On British Officers

Fayid, Suez Canal, Mar. 15.

Two British officers walking from "Tangier camp" into "Kensington Village", in the Fayid area of the Suez Canal zone, were fired on by two Egyptians armed with sten guns last night.

A British military spokesman said one of the Egyptians' sten gun jammed three times in succession and the second man opened fire, but missed.

Both Egyptians then turned round and fled.

The spokesman also disclosed a Palestinian Arab warden had been found shot and stabbed at a NAAFI store in one of their Fayid camps. The NAAFI stockroom had been broken into and a large quantity of cigarettes stolen.

There was a break in the perimeter wire surrounding the camp and three cartridge cases were found nearby, the spokesman added.

Investigations into the shooting of an Egyptian police officer on Thursday night were still proceeding, the spokesman went on.

He said two British soldiers involved were being held as material witnesses. It is understood the officer was shot dead when trying to stop a quarrel between British troops and Egyptian labourers. A British Army spokesman said the body was taken to a British military post by two British servicemen, but the circumstances were "obscure."

NO PROTEST YET
A British Embassy spokesman tonight denied Egyptian press reports that the Egyptian Government had formally protested against the shooting of the police officer or against the killing of the British mobile checkpoint's along the Tel El Kebir road.

Last night, Lieutenant-Colonel Zakaria Mohamed, the Egyptian Minister of the Interior, told reporters he was awaiting a full report on the investigation and that the matter was now in the hands of the public prosecutor.

Observers in Cairo tonight pointed out the remarkable restraint of the Egyptian authorities in not over-publicizing Canal zone incidents.

They associated this attitude with current efforts to find a basis for resuming Canal zone talks.

There has been a slight decrease in the rate of incidents throughout the Canal zone during the past few weeks. During February, there were 24 incidents, including 2 deaths.

Thrilling Escape Story

REFUGEES IN GUN BATTLE

Vienna, Mar. 15.

The thrilling story of an escape from a group of ten Hungarian refugees, including a child of five, to Austria after travelling half-across Hungary and shooting down two Communist policemen in a gun battle, was revealed here today by United States officials.

The six men, three women, and a child, who started by train from Budapest, walked the last 50 miles to the Austrian province of Burgenland, moving at night and hiding during the day. Four developed frost-bitten feet on the first night of their week-long trek and had to be assisted or carried the rest of the way by the others. There was nothing to eat for the last two days, the refugees reported.

The little band was caught three times during its flight, but each time managed to escape. Even as the half-starved and crippled refugees hobbled through the last mile and a half of patrolled minefield in the border "no-man's-land" they could see the Police with flashlights 200 yards behind, following their tracks.

The refugees, who arrived in Vienna by bus from the border, have been under the care of the United States "escape programme," it was learned here. It is understood that all have recovered, except one woman who is still in hospital for frozen feet.

Officials are withholding the names to protect relatives in Hungary.

THE GUN FIGHT

The shooting occurred on the night of March 2 when Hungarian Police stumbled upon the party in the dark about two miles east of a small town. The refugees had stopped to rest in the shelter of some woods and the leader went forward to find the best route towards the border.

Suddenly a shot whistled past the leader's head, followed by the command to halt. Another bullet was fired and then he saw a policeman running towards him. He drew his own pistol and brought the figure down with five rapid shots.

He then ran away from the group, knowing there would be at least one more policeman in the neighbourhood, and soon saw the second man. He fired twice more, and the other policeman also fell.—France-Press.

Explosion Blasts Boat 70 Miles Away

Tokyo, Mar. 16.

An atom explosion, probably from a hydrogen bomb, early this month blasted a Japanese fishing boat 70 miles away, critically injuring two and injuring the entire remainder of the crew — another 21 men.

Crewmen said the blast occurred on March 1. They struggled back to Japan with their vessel cloaked in a whitish ash-like substance and today, the national news agency Kyodo, carried their story.

They suffered burns, a reddening and blackening of the skin and, in some cases, their hair fell out.

Scientists studied burns and skin lesions on 23 crewmen and diagnosed them as cases of radioactivity after contact with the fall of ash from a presumed hydrogen bomb.

The Japanese Foreign Minister said this morning it was studying the question of compensation for the seamen injured in the blast and requested to know the exact circumstances of the accident.

Trade Talks Fiasco

(Our Own Correspondent)

London, Mar. 15.

The news leaked out in Berlin tonight that some British businessmen are discussing the formation of a breakaway group, from the China Trade Committee, offshoot of the British Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

They say, "We represent reputable firms. Why should all the business have to go through Mr. Berger? This isn't our normal way of conducting business."

Only one businessman, Mr. George Williamson, a Director of Crompton Parkinson, electrical engineers, saw the Chinese delegate. He was in Berlin at the specific invitation of the Chinese and his independent talks would continue he said, adding that his firm was once a member of the Council but had withdrawn.

Five businessmen from Britain and ten representing British firms on the Continent did in fact go to Berlin, but the Chinese refused to see them individually. In the late afternoon they saw all 15 together and all were ushered into the street within ten minutes after being told by the Chinese leader, Mr. Li Chih-Wei, "We are refusing our shopkeepers' New invitations are being prepared. These will be sent out through Mr. Berger."

Footnote: Mr. F. A. Timbers, an official of the Council, told me tonight that some of those who went to Berlin after hearing of the cancellation were, in fact, sent away by other businessmen.

Eisenhower Can't Agree To More Tax Concessions

Washington, Mar. 15.

President Eisenhower appealed to the nation today to support his tax programme which, he said, would strengthen the economy, provide more jobs and give added security to the American worker.

The President made his appeal in a nationwide television and radio speech in which he urged Congress to accept his programme of overall reductions which he limited to a total of \$1,397,000,000.

He strongly opposed suggestions for further tax concessions and warned that to further increase the Government's deficit by saving on taxes would be seriously weaken national defence.

Mr. Eisenhower said he could not accept suggestions by members of the Democratic Party in Congress for an increase in personal income tax exemptions from \$600 to \$700.

He said there was no justification for arguments that the nation was on the brink of disaster or for arguments that the situation called for further tax increases to increase the purchasing power of the people.

"Viewing with gloom is only to be expected in the spring of an election year," the President said.

"The truth is we do not have a depression. And what's more, as I have said time and time again, your Government will continue to use its full powers to make sure that we don't have one."

"A month ago, I expressed to Congress my belief that we would be able to go from wartime to peacetime conditions without serious economic trouble. Nothing has happened since to change my mind."

"Some unemployment has developed in different parts of the country, but the nation as a whole continues to be prosperous."

SECURITY
"The broad programme I have proposed to Congress will strengthen our economy. When it is approved by Congress, it will both increase the number of jobs and make every man secure in the job that he has."

Mr. Eisenhower said that his Administration had already cut, or would cut, by the end of this fiscal year \$12,000,000,000 from the budget recommended by the Truman Administration before it left office in January, 1952.

"But this is an election year," he added. "Some think it is good politics to promise more and more Government spending and at the same time more and more tax cuts for all. We know from bitter experience what such a policy would finally lead to. It would make our dollars buy less."

To make large additional savings in the cost of Government at present means seriously weakening the national defence of the United States, the President added.

"I do not know any friend of the United States who wants that under present conditions."

Mr. Eisenhower said that his chief objections to suggestions of an increase in personal income tax exemptions was that a \$100 exemption, for instance, would excuse one taxpayer in every three from paying all Federal income taxes.

"I think this is wrong," he said. "I am for everybody paying his fair share. I simply don't believe for one second that anyone privileged to live in this country wants someone else to pay his own fair and just share of the cost of his Government."

The President asked Congress to reconsider its decision to reduce corporation taxes from 52 per cent to 47 per cent next month.

He said the extension of the extra tax on corporations would provide enough money to pay the costs of the benefits which his own tax revision programme would bring to individuals and businesses.

"Everyone wants tax reductions of the right kind, at the right time," he said. "That specifically includes this Act." (Continued on back page, Col. 4)

Hand-Shaking May Be Banned

Canberra, Mar. 15.

The Australian Health Department has recommended a ban on shaking hands with the Queen during her tour of Western Australia to "safeguard" her against the polio epidemic which has hit the state.

The Department has also recommended that all food for the Royal couple should come either from the Royal yacht, Gothic, or Australia's eastern states, that big gatherings of school children should be cancelled and that people presented to the Queen should stand further away than usual.

The recommendations have been made to the Royal tour authorities, but not yet finally accepted, authoritative sources said here today.—Reuter.

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LANIEL IS IN NO HURRY

Procrastination Annoys US Officials

She Made 3d On This Hold-up

London, Mar. 15. A 70-year-old Nottingham shopkeeper, Mrs Jane Nicholson, made three pence from an attempted holdup in her shop yesterday.

A youth bought some sweets, pointed a gun at her, but the youth bolted empty handed, leaving his three pence change on the counter — after she fled through a side door.

German Ties With NATO Suggested

London, Mar. 15. The Conservative Daily Telegraph said today the true solution for European unity "would seem to be the inclusion of Germany in NATO."

The newspaper said: "It is impossible to avoid sympathy with France in the decision that she will shortly have to take with regard to the European Defence Community."

"As the debate in the National Congress of the Radical Party has shown, this question divides the whole nation, and even men who normally agree on other matters find it hard to know the right answer."

"The hostility to ratification does not come from the Communists alone, but men whose patriotism is beyond suspicion find themselves at one with the Communists in this issue."

ONLY NETHERLANDS

"Hitherto, it has been possible to postpone the day of decision, and of the six members of EDC, only the Netherlands has so far completed the process of ratification."

"But the postponement has been achieved at a price. Franco-German relations have definitely grown worse during the discussions, and partly as a result of the discussions."

"There was a period immediately after the war when it appeared that France and Germany were prepared to bury the enmity of a thousand years, but great historical divisions are not so easily erased, and old suspicions are reasserting themselves."—China Mail Special.

Circumnavigated Australia In 30-Foot Ketch

Perth, Mar. 16. Mr and Mrs Trevor Tuckfield have arrived back at Fremantle after a four-year 20,000-mile voyage around the coast of Australia in a eight-and-a-half-ton, 30-foot ketch.

They received a warm welcome from the people who boarded the gleaming white vessel yesterday.

The Major of Fremantle, Mr W. F. Sampson, told them they had shown that the British spirit of adventure was still alive.

The distance around Australia is considerably less than 20,000 miles, but Mr Tuckfield explained that the extra mileage logged was caused by zig-zag under sail.—China Mail Special.

Paris, Mar. 15. Premier Joseph Laniel steadfastly refused today to set a date for a final French vote on the European Army Treaty.

The United States, anxious that the French should ratify the treaty as soon as possible, has not yet conceded its behind-the-scenes fight to get M. Laniel to force a show-down in the French National Assembly on the controversial treaty.

Three times in three days — Thursday, Friday and Saturday — the United States Ambassador, Mr C. Douglas Dillon, has gone to the Quai D'Orsay to confer with the French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault. More meetings are scheduled this week.

The United States is seeking to prevent Franco-American relations from exploding publicly over the questions of the European Army and Indo-China.

Left-wing and Communist newspapers maintained today that Mr Dillon has been laying harsh ultimatums on M. Bidault's gilded Louis XVIII desk. The Embassy and the Ministry issued prompt denials.

M. Laniel was questioned today by a prominent supporter of EDC—M. Robert Lecourt, Parliamentary leader of M. Bidault's Roman Catholic Popular Republican (MRP) Party—as to when he would go before the Deputies. M. Lecourt left M. Laniel's office with no more information than when he entered. This Spring, he thought—perhaps in May—would be the time for the final debate and decision by the Deputies.

Mr Dulles left Berlin convinced that the French Government would seek a final decision on the EDC treaty before the Geneva Far Eastern peace conference began on April 26 and before the French Parliament took its Easter vacation on April 16.

It was an open secret at Berlin that Mr Dulles agreed to the Geneva parity with Communist China to strengthen M. Bidault's position with the Assembly and to improve the chances of EDC ratification. Mr Dulles left Berlin persuaded that the West had exposed Soviet unwillingness to compromise in Europe and had thus paved the way for prompt EDC ratification by France.

DISAPPOINTED

This, he told reporters, was the "major victory" of the conference.

United States officials are now disappointed at M. Laniel's refusal to yield the fruits of that "triumph."

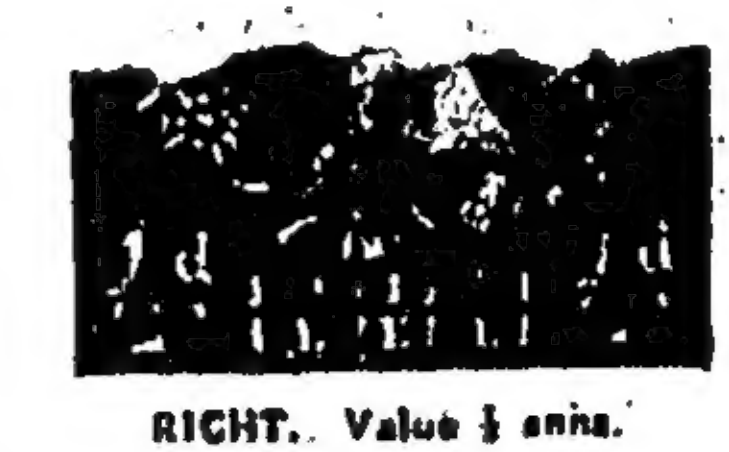
At best M. Laniel will get the EDC out of the Committee and on to the floor of the Chamber—but with no vote—before the Easter recess and the Geneva conference.

Even for that minimum concession, France is asking a price from the United States, Britain and Germany. Mr Dillon, and M. Bidault have been discussing a possible guarantee to France of United States troop commitment.

This Omission Means Money

WRONG. Value . . . ?

RIGHT. Value 3 annas.



RIGHT. Value 3 annas.

Stamps which have just reached London from Bahrain in the Persian Gulf are remarkable for an omission which has probably never occurred before.

Normally these Elizabethan stamps have a surcharge printed in annas. But Mr B. W. Phillips, philatelist, pointed out four stamps on an envelope. All have the word "anna" printed on them, but no figure showing the value of the stamp.

Collectors with envelopes bearing these faulty stamps believe the value of them may be hundreds of pounds.

Civil Defence Plans To Be Studied

Paris, Mar. 15. The French Government planned to study a programme for the dual purpose of civil defence in the event of war and of protection against a major catastrophe, such as a big fire or a natural calamity, the Interior Minister, M. Leon Martinand, said tonight.

He said the decision to study the programme had been taken at an inter-ministerial meeting today.

According to preliminary surveys, the project was believed to involve an expense of about 68,000,000,000 francs (about US\$100,000,000) over a period of several years.

Another inter-ministerial meeting took place today and considered a proposal by the Defence Minister, Mr Rene Pleven, for improving the situation of military personnel. It was believed possible that this question might be brought up tomorrow in the National Assembly.—France-Press.

Sara Churchill Returns To West End

London, Mar. 15. Sara Churchill, stage and screen actress daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, arrived today from New York to appear on a London stage.

Miss Churchill, wife of a well-known Californian photographer, Mr Anthony Beauchamp, might also play the leading role in a film on World War II here.—France-Press.

Young Mother To Fly Solo Around the World

New York, Mar. 15. A pert young mother of two, inspired by the challenge left by Amelia Earhart, plans to take off from San Francisco on Wednesday on a round-the-world solo flight she hopes will break existing records.

Dianna Bixby, 31, will be at the controls of a converted Mosquito bomber, a fast, high-altitude British plane used during World War II.

Flying via Newark, New Jersey, Paris, Bagdad, Saudi Arabia, Karachi, Calcutta, Tokyo, Midway Island and back to San Francisco, she will be out to break the late Bill Odom's unofficial solo record of 73 hrs, 6 mins, 11 secs.

Her flight plan on the 20,525-mile trip calls for an average 385 miles an hour that would return her to San Francisco 60 hours and 20 minutes after the take-off.

If she can do it, she will have accomplished what only two men—Odom and Wiley Post—have done. Amelia Earhart, the only other woman to try a globe-circling flight was lost in the Pacific in 1937.

And, if she can do it, Mrs Bixby's times will be the first round-the-world record in the books because her course is one prescribed by the National Aeronautical Association. Neither Post's nor Odom's was officially prescribed.

DAILY ROUTINE

To Mrs Bixby, handling planes is a daily routine. With her husband, Bob, she is co-owner of Bixby Airlines, a contract carrier operating out of Long Beach.

She and her husband are the firm's two pilots. They haul cargo from Mexico in daily plane flights.

Mrs Bixby started flying in 1943 while travelling with her first husband, an Air Force pilot. He was shot down and lost during World War II.

Dianna kept on flying and became a co-pilot with a West Coast Air Freight Company where she met and later married Bixby.

The trim Mosquito she will pilot is equipped with two 1,600 horsepower engines, two 200-gallon bomb bay fuel tanks and a high altitude pressurization system. It is painted red, white and blue.

Mrs Bixby will use direction finders to find her way over the 20,525-mile course. She will take only minimum equipment with her—a rubber life raft, an emergency radio set, a standard survival kit, a parachute, a pistol, water and sandwiches.—United Press.

LEE WORLD

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Strengthening
Flood Walls

TO SOVIET SATELLITES:

Britain Offers A Wide Range Of Goods

Geneva, Mar. 15.
The Joint British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Reading, said today Britain would welcome any purchases by East European countries of "the wide range of consumer goods which are traditional United Kingdom exports".

He added "We can offer in return a market for almost all Eastern European foodstuffs and raw materials".

Lord Reading told the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Britain was at present engaged in trade negotiations with Poland and would soon begin trade talks with Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Britain welcomed the East-West trade talks to be held next month.

The Soviet delegate Mr Pavel Komykin who spoke before Lord Reading told the Commission: "The whole concept of strategic goods has been widened in recent times and now includes a considerable number of commodities and goods which form a fundamental obstacle to the expansion of trade."

Lord Reading said Britain would certainly take part in the discussions on East-West trade.

"We favour this practical approach to a very difficult problem, though I must point out that these consultations cannot replace the detailed trade negotiations which must take place in the capitals of the countries concerned."

Lord Reading noted "with great interest" the changes in the economic and commercial policies of Eastern Europe.

It was too early to judge how significant these changes would be, but the increased emphasis on consumer requirements seemed to offer great hopes for a valuable expansion in commercial exchanges between East and West, he said.

On Saturday the British delegation presented a draft resolution in the Commission stressing the great importance of removing economic obstacles to increasing trade among all European countries and welcoming the East-West trade talks due to open in Geneva on April 20.

LONG TERM FACTS
The resolution supported a Soviet suggestion to revive the Commission's Committee on the Development of Trade, which has not met for five years, but qualified this by opposing consultation on the question after the April talks.

Russia suggested the committee might study the possibilities of concluding long term and multilateral trade and payments agreements between European countries.

Today the delegations of Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania joined in backing a revival of East-West trade. Lord Reading spoke after Mr Pavel Komykin, Russian, who said the British draft resolution referred specifically to the removal of "economic obstacles" and asked "what exactly was meant by this."

"The Soviet Union is against the development of trade in war material and war equipment," the Soviet delegate said.

FUNDAMENTAL OBSTACLE
"But the whole concept of strategic goods has been widened in recent times and now includes a considerable number of commodities and goods which form a fundamental obstacle to the expansion of trade."

For Poland, Mr Julius-Katz, who said the British draft resolution referred specifically to the removal of obstacles, said: "The Soviet Union is against the development of trade in war material and war equipment," the Soviet delegate said.

Interest in the debate is centred on Argentina's claims to the Falkland Islands, occupied by Britain, Guatemala's claims against Britain in British Honduras, and the desire of most American States to see Dutch, French and Danish Colonies in the Western Hemisphere given independence.

The United States will oppose recommendations on the grounds that the European colonial powers are not represented at the conference, informants said.

Earlier nineteen of 20 nations represented on the Political Committee of the 10th Inter-American Conference voted in favour of Panama's anti-discrimination resolution. Guatemala alone refused to support the measure and abstained at the final vote.

The Panamanian resolution aimed primarily at the United States, recommending that all American States adopted legal and educational measures to abolish racial discrimination "as one of the means of combating international Communism."

While the resolution was Hemisphere-wide, Panama had complained in earlier debates today that the United States was guilty of discrimination in the Panama Canal Zone. But the United States voted for the measure because of its broader purpose.

Guatemala said its abstention should not be interpreted as endorsing racial discrimination. It refused to support the plan, however, on political grounds after it had voted against the United States declaration opposing the intervention of international Communism in the Hemisphere. —United Press.



Men seen at work on the damaged wall of the Thames at Long Reach, Dartford, Kent, where thousands of sandbags have been used to reinforce the wall against the recent high tides. All-night vigils were kept, but although the tide lapped within inches of the top of the wall the defences held. One high tide caused a 200ft. stretch of the wall to fail last week, and there has been some serious cracking. The tide broke through at the same place during last year's flooding.

Montagu Trial Opens: Counsel's Warning To The Jury

London, Mar. 15.
A slender, dark-haired young airman told a court at Winchester today of homo-sexual parties on the vast estate of 27-year-old bachelor peer, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu.

He also told of men dancing together at one of these parties while others went into bedrooms.

The witness made his statements at the opening of the trial here of Lord Montagu and two other men on a total of 18 homo-sexual charges.

The other accused are Michael Pitt Rivers, 27, a second cousin of the peer, and Peter Wildeblood, 30, a London journalist. They all pleaded not guilty.

Some of the charges involved two young airmen, Corporal Edward McNally, 25, and Aircraftman John Reynolds, 21, who admitted in preliminary hearings that they were both "queers" (perverts) and had been so for years.

BLACK JACKET
McNally was the prosecution's first witness today, dressed in a black jacket and striped trousers—traditional garb of London businessmen. He told his story to an all-male jury in the great hall of the medieval castle here, where the trial is being held.

In the course of his evidence one of the airman, Corporal Edward McNally, said he could remember how many times he had committed unnatural acts with men.

The corporal also admitted writing a letter to a man beginning "my husband dear." This had not prevented him paying court over a long time to a young girl.

McNally agreed that he had committed unnatural acts with the defendant Wildeblood.

Tropical Isles To Let In Indian Ocean
If you want a small tropical island with palm trees, glistening sandy beaches and plenty of sun, a Government department have several to let.

The Government of the Seychelles, a British colonial outpost of some 62 islands in the Indian Ocean, have announced that they have "islands to let."

No rates, no income-tax, abundant fish and fruit, a tropical climate tempered by sea breezes—these are the attractions offered.

The Seychelles Government have decided to nationalise certain local industries, to abolish tax on certain of the islands' exports and to lease outlying islands to individuals.

30 YEARS' LEASE
Tenders have been invited for 30 years' leases of the islands of Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Assumption. Anyone can apply.

But you must convince the authorities that you are a pioneer type, prepared to make the growing of coconuts, vegetables and fruit a commercial success.

Offers, said the Colonial Office, have already been received from Egypt and Eire, among other countries.

The total population of the three islands is 300. Successful buyers would become virtual sovereigns and would add a particularly rare and special species of turtle to the advantages.

The previous leaseholders were an industrial firm in London.

ANNOUNCED America To Equip Fighters As Well As Bombers

Washington, Mar. 15.
The United States Air Force plans to equip every offensive fighter as well as bomber with atomic weapons for tactical use against enemy ground forces, the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Nathan Twining, announced today.

"It is also Air Force policy that we will be able to deliver those weapons on a round-the-clock basis, regardless of weather," he told the Armed Services Sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He also said the United States was now deploying two squadrons of B-61 Matador pilotless bombers to reinforce the tactical air forces in Europe.

The Soviet threat of atomic war was neither static nor diminishing, he told the Committee. "On the contrary, our intelligence indicates that the Soviet Air Force is steadily and skillfully being increased in quality and effectiveness," General Twining stated.

These intelligence reports showed that Russia was developing more advanced long-range bombers capable of direct attack on the United States; a large force of light jet bombers which posed a serious threat in Europe and the Far East; and a more adequate air defence system with modern radar warning and improved jet interceptors.

The demonstrated ability of the Russians to produce atomic weapons and deliver them dictated increased United States emphasis on air preparedness, he added.

The United States was rapidly completing a system of overseas bases within easy reach of "enemy targets" and was providing superior jet fighters for the defence of such bases.

BIG REDUCTION
American armed forces, other than the Air Force, would be slashed by more than 400,000 men between the end of this year and June 1955, Mr Charles Wilson, American Secretary of Defence, announced today.

Ridgway's Anxiety
Washington, Mar. 15.
The U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Matthew Ridgway, said today there was "no supportable reason to expect abandonment of the ultimate intentions of the Soviet bloc to bring about our downfall nor reason for expecting any Soviet concessions on the major problems contributing to present international tension."

The former United Nations Commander in Korea, who was also addressing the Senate armed forces appropriations sub-committee, expressed his anxiety concerning the U.S. Government's "new look" military programme increasing air power and reducing its Army strength.

"The United States and its free world Allies are being faced by Communist armies, navies and air forces formidable in size, modern in material and techniques, deployed around the periphery of the Iron Curtain from the North German plain to the maritime areas of Eastern Siberia."

"The growth of Soviet nuclear capabilities has come to form the basis for an increasing threat to the United States."

"The advent of new weapons and the increased importance of air power cannot but give new meaning and wider scope to the dimension of land warfare, without changing war's nature and basic object. The ultimate objective of the entire effort is control of land and of people living on land."

General Ridgway said he was not expecting any Soviet concessions on major problems and expressed anxiety at the Administration's programme increasing the air forces and reducing the land forces.

"Through such a reduction our capabilities will be lowered while our responsibilities for meeting the continuing threat have yet to be correspondingly lessened."

"The strength of the major components of the Soviet bloc military power continues to increase, and its industrial capabilities continue to expand," —France-Press.

No Date Fixed For Atomic Talks
Washington, Mar. 15.
No date has yet been set for the next talk between the Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, and the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Georgi Zarubin, on the peaceful uses of atomic energy, a State Department spokesman said today.

Last week the Soviet Ambassador had discussed the subject with the U.S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr Walter Bedell Smith, while Mr Dulles was attending the Inter-American conference at Caracas.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD
Across: 1. Tensed, 4. Force, 7. Reserved, 8. Drift, 9. Dures, 11. Errand, 13. Injure, 15. Star, 16. Plant, 18. Reddened, 20. Taste, 21. Extend, 22. Tired, 23. Score, 25. Deviled, 26. Fodder, 27. Radiator, 28. Eagle, 30. Meadows, 32. Residue, 33. Impact, 34. Untrue, 35. Airt, 37. Road.

Down: 2. Thrash, 3. Rescued, 4. Fastened, 5. Cupid, 6. Transparent material, 7. Takes notice of, 8. Mad, 9. Drail, 10. Ditch, 11. Ditch, 12. Ditch, 13. Ditch, 14. Ditch, 15. Ditch, 16. Ditch, 17. Ditch, 18. Ditch, 19. Ditch, 20. Ditch, 21. Ditch, 22. Ditch, 23. Ditch, 24. Ditch, 25. Ditch, 26. Ditch, 27. Ditch, 28. Ditch, 29. Ditch, 30. Ditch, 31. Ditch, 32. Ditch, 33. Ditch, 34. Ditch, 35. Ditch.

"Conscience Money"

Las Vegas, Mar. 15.
A local theatre has received a cheque for \$15 from a Los Angeles woman who said she attended the movies at juvenile prices long after she passed the 12-year age limit.

"I don't know exactly how much I owe you," her letter said, "but I think this will more than cover the amount. Please forgive me." —United Press.

The Pope Is Slowly Recovering

Vatican City, Mar. 15.
Pope Plus XII continued his slow but steady convalescence from a 50-day-old attack of stomach trouble today and Vatican sources said that his recovery appears to be only a question of time.

The source said that he is eating more food and staying up longer every day.

The source discounted Press reports distributed abroad that the Pope's illness, officially diagnosed as gastritis on February 5, has now been identified by his doctors as stenosis of the pylorus, contraction of the small end of the stomach which leads into the small intestine.

The source pointed out that no new tests have been made by the Pope's doctors after the first round of X-rays and other tests early in February, which led to the official diagnosis of gastritis. —United Press.

New Liner With The "Dream Kitchens"

Below decks, the 29,000-ton P. and O. liner Arcadia, now on her maiden voyage to Australia, earned a name for herself before sailing from London which may be unknown to her passengers.

"The ship without a dishcloth" was the title given her by the kitchen staff.

At times take the place of dishcloths in the Arcadia's galleys. Four of them can wash 16,000 plates or 20,000 cups in an hour.

Other machines in the kitchens—a woman's paradise staffed entirely by men—include:

A bread slicer that butters at the same time divider that makes every roll the same size;

Eight grills which cook meat both sides at once;

A thermostatically-controlled six-pan fish fryer.

There is also a ship's laundry which can handle 50,000 pieces of washing in a week.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS DOWN

- 3 Power (8)
- 8 Burden (4)
- 9 Determined (8)
- 11 Offensive missiles (8)
- 13 Meadows (4)
- 15 Crashes into (8)
- 16 Business chief (8)
- 19 Stuffy (4)
- 21 Orgy (8)
- 26 Servant (8)
- 28 Dumb (4)
- 27 Pervade (8)

- 1 Thrash (4)
- 2 Rescued (4)
- 4 Fastened (4)
- 5 Cupid (4)
- 6 Transparent material (8)
- 7 Takes notice of (5)
- 8 Mad (5)
- 10 Drail (5)
- 11 Ditch (5)
- 12 Ditch (5)
- 13 Ditch (5)
- 14 Ditch (5)
- 15 Ditch (5)
- 16 Ditch (5)
- 17 Ditch (5)
- 18 Ditch (5)
- 19 Ditch (5)
- 20 Ditch (5)
- 21 Ditch (5)
- 22 Ditch (5)
- 23 Ditch (5)
- 24 Ditch (5)

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ATOM SMASHER WORKING

Berkeley, California, Mar. 15.
The bekvaton, World's most powerful atom smasher, is in operation here, California University authorities announced today.

Weighing 10,000 tons, the instrument has accelerated protons, nuclei of hydrogen bombs, to 4,700 million electron volts, the highest energy achieved in an atom smasher.

The bekvaton is designed to reach an energy of 6,250 million electron volts. —Reuters.

New US Fighters Will Take Off And Land VERTICALLY

Washington, Mar. 15.
The Navy this week will announce the development of two experimental fighter planes which can take off and land vertically and thus need neither runways nor carrier decks to operate.

Despite the fact that two national magazines have been allowed to make pictures and shortly will run stories on the radical new aircraft the Navy does not yet concede officially that the planes exist.

The "stealth" plane apparently is to be removed from the vertical take-off and landing programme with publication of one of the magazine stories, this week.

The two new planes, experimental prototypes of 1950 that

could revolutionize certain tactical operations, are the consolidated Yulies Aircraft Corporation's FY-1 and the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's XFV-1.

Both are powered by 8,000-horsepower jet turbine engines produced by the Allison division of General Motors. The engines drive two contra-rotating propellers.

The Air Force has a similar project underway, involving jet-propelled fighters.

The Opportunity At Geneva

By Patrick Maitland, MP

THE gaunt figure of Neville Chamberlain in top hat and flapping tails has for long haunted the chancelleries of Europe.

Few treaties concerning Eastern Europe have been framed since the days of his Peace Front bearing the stamp of his idealism.

Nearly all have assumed that an international agreement is similar to a business contract faced with moral principles.

Chamberlain brought this frame of mind from England's hard-headed industrial Midlands.

The essence of his kind of contract is summed up in the lawyers' Latin tag, "consensus ad idem," which, roughly translated, means that both parties must have the same intentions towards the business in hand. In fact, honesty.

But the Russians seem never to have thought like that.

There have been several agreements, among them the Satellite Peace Treaties and the U.N. Convention on Human Rights, obliging the signatories to free Eastern Europe on the basis of self-determination.

Another way

AT Berlin the Russians showed that they had no intention of being bound by these obligations, and at last came the chance to lay Chamberlain's ghost.

For there is another way of reaching agreements, which the West may adopt at Geneva. The Germans have a word for it—Realpolitik. It is only a neat way of putting what Machiavelli said at length in "The Prince."

This does not mean attempted swindling. But, as far as agreements are concerned, it means that they are not framed in terms of moral principles.

They reflect not what a nation may profess for others' benefit, but what it badly needs itself.

And there are some things that China and Russia may badly need, which the West could exchange for concessions.

An agreement on such lines would have a chance of lasting for some time. It might have a real meaning, particularly if it dealt with Southeast Asia.

For the key to this chance of better understanding is China.

Let down

RED China is willing to go to important lengths to obtain recognition in UNO, and there may be areas under her influence which she would consider expendable.

Indo-China may be one such region. And Ho Chi-minh might already realise this. His radio and press have made little comment on the Geneva conference, which is to discuss Indo-China.

Moreover, he knows that, although he has sent diplomatic envoys to Moscow and Peking, formal Soviet and Chinese embassies have not been dispatched in return.

Perhaps Ho Chi-minh recalls the fate of General Markos. He was once premier of Free Greece in the civil war, but at the end he disappeared, unrecognised and let down by his master. The same could happen to Ho Chi-minh.

The Russians might also see advantages in a settlement of Indo-China. It is believed that she is already becoming anxious of growing Chinese imperialism, with its danger of involving the USSR in some fresh conflict with the USA.

Some think that this fear has encouraged Russia to bring China to the conference table.

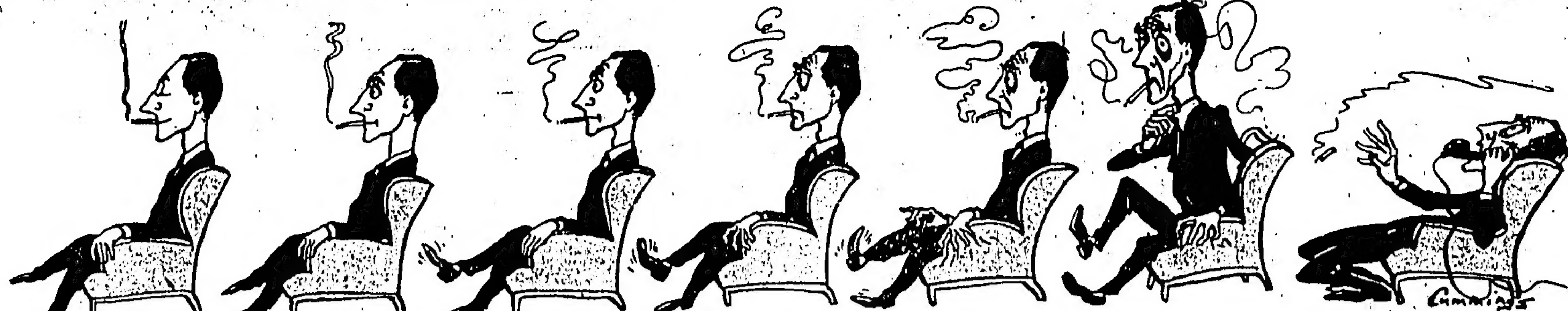
How far?

ON the basis of these, it is the Communist world, the West might be able to strike a bargain. But just how far the West can go towards admitting China to UNO is a complex question.

It would certainly be unwise to grant such status to China before receiving concrete and lasting advantages. In any case the tedious history of negotiations with the Communists must prevent over-optimism.

But even if Geneva proves no more fruitful than Berlin, there is hope that the West will approach the Communists this time more realistically.

TWO OVER THE FIVE... by Cummings



CIGARETTE No. 1 "What nonsense! Why, my grandfather smoked 30 every day and lived to the age of 95!"

No. 2 "besides, one's nerves would go to pieces if one didn't..."

No. 3 "...anyway it's just a lot of speculation..."

No. 4 "...and the loss in taxation would throw the nation's finances out of gear..."

No. 5 "...speculation based on very little fact..."

No. 6 "...but certainly some fact..."

No. 7 "...doctor, you couldn't come round for a little check-up, could you?"

London Express Service

Concluding the adventure of the Deptford Horror

GUIDED by the light of Janet Wilson's candle, we mounted silently to the floor above and thence into the bedroom which Holmes had previously examined.

While we waited for our companion to collect her things from the adjoining room, Holmes strolled across and, lifting the edge of the cloth which now covered the two birdcages, peered in at the tiny sleeping occupants.

"The evil of Man is an inventive as it is immeasurable," said he, and I noticed that his face was very stern.

On Miss Wilson's return, having seen that she was safely ensconced for the night, I followed Holmes into the room which she had lately occupied. It was a small chamber but comfortably furnished and lit by a heavy silver oil-lamp. Immediately above a tiled Dutch stove there hung a cage containing three canaries which, momentarily ceasing their song, cocked their little golden heads at our approach.

"I think, Watson, that it would be as well to relax for half an hour," whispered Holmes as we sank into our chairs. "So kindly put out the light."

"But, my dear fellow, if there is any danger it would be an act of madness!" I protested. "There is no danger in the darkness."

"Would it not be better," I said severely, "that you were frank with me? You have made it obvious that the birds are being put to some evil purpose, but what is this danger that exists only in the lamplight?"

"I have my own ideas on that matter, Watson, but it is better that we should wait and see. I would draw your attention, however, to the hinged lid of the stovehole on the top of the stove."

"It appears to be a perfectly normal fitting."

"Just so. But is there not some significance in the fact that the stovehole of an iron stove should be fitted with a tin lid?"

"Great heavens, Holmes!" I cried, as the light of understanding burst upon me. "You mean that this man Wilson has used the inter-connecting pipes from the stove in the cellar to there in the bedrooms to disseminate some deadly poison to wipe out his own kind and kin and thus obtain the property. It is for that reason that he has a fireplace in his own bedroom. I see it all."

"Well, you are not far wrong, Watson, though I fancy that Master Theobald is rather more subtle than you suppose. He possesses the two qualities vital

to the successful murderer—ruthlessness and imagination. But now, down the light like a good fellow, for a while let us relax. If my reading of the problem is correct, our nerves may be tested to their limit before we see tomorrow's dawn."

I lay back in the darkness and drawing some comfort from the thought that ever since the affair with Colonel Sebastian Moran I had carried my revolver in my pocket, I sought in my mind for some explanation that would account for the warning contained in Holmes's words. But I must have been wearier than I had imagined. My thoughts grew more and more confused and finally I dozed off.

"It was a touch upon my arm that awoke me. The lamp had been relit, and my friend was bending over me, his long black shadow thrown upon the ceiling. "Sorry to disturb you, Watson," he whispered. "But duty calls."

"What do you wish me to do?"

"Sit still and listen. Peperino is singing."

★ ★ ★

It was a vigil that I shall long remember. Holmes had tilted the lampshade, so that the light fell on the opposite wall broken by the window and the great tiled stove with its hanging birdcage. The fog had thickened and the rays from the lamp, flicking through the window glass, lost themselves in luminous clouds that swirled and bobbed against the panes.

My mind darkened by a premonition of evil, I would have found our surroundings melancholy enough without that eerie

The NEW exploits of SHERLOCK HOLMES

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

Holmes and Watson have been visiting a house in Deptford where three members of a family have died mysteriously. Now Miss Janet Wilson, who has inherited the property, is frightened and wants to move out. Her uncle Theobald, who trains canaries and also lives in the house, tries to calm the girl's fears. After examining the house Holmes and Watson leave, but return later armed with a golf club. Unbeknown to Theobald Wilson, they ask the girl to move to another room for the night. They then go to keep vigil in the girl's bedroom.

Kill it! Smash it! yelled Holmes



My heart gave one great throb and then seemed to stop beating altogether. The lid of the stove was slowly rising.

I had lost all count of time and it was only the silliness following the sudden cessation of the bird's song that brought me back to reality. I glanced across the room and, in an instant, my heart gave one great throb and then seemed to stop beating altogether.

The lid of the stove was slowly rising.

My friends will agree that I am neither a nervous nor an impressionable man, but I must confess that, as I sat there gripping the sides of my chair and glaring at the dreadful thing that was gradually clambering into view, my limbs momentarily refused their functions.

The lid had tilted back an inch or more, and through the gap thus created a writhing mass of yellow stick-like objects was clawing and scrambling for a hold. And then, in a flash, it was out and standing motionless upon the surface of the stove.

Though I have always viewed with horror the bird-eating tentacles of South America, they shrank into insignificance when compared with the ghastly creature that faced us now across that lamplight room. It was

bigger in its spread than a large dinner-plate, with a hard, smooth, yellow body surrounded by legs that rising high above it, conveyed a fearful impression that the thing was crouching for its spring. It was absolutely hairless save for tufts of stiff bristles around the leg-joints, and above the glint of its great poison mandibles clusters of beady eyes shone in the light with a baleful red iridescence.

"Don't move, Watson," whispered Holmes, and there was a note of horror in his voice that I had never heard before.

★ ★ ★

The sound roused the creature for, in a single lightning bound, it sprang from the stove to the top of the birdcage and, reaching the wall, whizzed round the room and over the ceiling with a dreadful scurrying swiftness that the eye could scarcely follow. Holmes flung himself forward like a man possessed.

WOMEN'S GULLIBILITY DOESN'T SURPRISE

By LES ARMOUR

A BIRMINGHAM city analyst—who plainly doesn't believe that miracles come out of bottles—has been doing some digging into the things women buy to make them look like Marilyn Monroe.

He figures that the circus promoter must have been talking about women when he noted that there's a sucker born every minute.

Here, for instance, is what the analyst (Mr. H. H. Bagnall) had to say about a certain slimming preparation which the ladies are urged to put into their bath-water.

"You could probably get better results by drinking it."

It costs nearly £1, but it is made of a combination of

Epsom salts, Glauber salts and common salt. The ingredients cost about a shilling.

Then there was an eyelash grower. This miracle substance was compounded of yellow petroleum jelly with colouring and perfume thrown in. It costs nearly as much as the "slimmer" but its ingredients sell for about three shillings a pound.

Eventually, he got around to an astringent lotion used to pep up the skin. This prized potion turned out to be made of methylated spirit and mineral oil.

"The price," reports Mr. Bagnall, "was a measure of the (buyer's) gullibility." The spirit and oil can be bought for 4d.

How many women queue up for this stuff, he does not seem to

know for sure. But business is brisk enough, apparently, for justify persistent advertising campaigns and there is no indication that any of the makers are going bankrupt.

The products Mr. Bagnall dug into cost between 15s. 6d. and a guinea. They are "worth something between a few pence and a shilling."

The difficulty is that not all the beauty preparations on the market are fakes and not all sell at fabulous prices. But the customer has a hard time choosing between them.

Mostly, they are bought for their psychological effect—and the suffer the price the bigger the mental boost the not-so-fair ladies seem to get from them.

Anyhow, Mr. Bagnall doesn't really think he is going to get very far.

He says women's gullibility no longer surprises him. "I have come to expect it."

"Kill it! Smash it!" he yelled hoarsely, raising his golf club at the blurred shape racing across the walls.

Dust from broken plaster choked the air, and a table crashed over as I flung myself to the ground when the great spider cleared the room in a single leap and turned at bay. Holmes bounded across me, swinging his club. "Keep where you are!" he shouted, and even as his voice rang through the room the thud, thud, thud of the blows was broken by a horrible squealing sound. For an instant the creature hung there, and then, slipping slowly down, it lay like a mess of smashed eggs with three thin bony legs still twitching and plucking at the floor.

"Indeed, I can discover no excuse for my lamentable slowness in solving this case, for the facts were before me from the first and the whole affair was elementary in its construction."

"And yet to give Theobald Wilson his dues, one must recognise his almost diabolical cleverness. Once these horrors were installed in the stove in the cellar, what more simple than to arrange two ordinary flues communicating with the bedrooms above. By hanging the cages over the stoves, the flues would themselves act as a magnifier to the bird's song and guided by their predatory instinct the creatures would invariably ascend whichever pipe led to it."

"Thank God that it missed you when it sprang!" I gasped, scrambling to my feet. "He made no reply. He made up I caught a glimpse of his face reflected in a wall mirror. He looked pale and strained, and there was a curious rigidity in his expression."

"I am afraid it's up to you, Watson," he said quietly. "It has a mate."

I spun round to be greeted by a spectacle that I shall remember for the rest of my days. Sherlock Holmes was standing perfectly still within two feet of the stove and on top of it, reared up on its back legs, its loathsome body shuddering for the spring, stood another monstrous spider.

I knew instinctively that any sudden movement would merely precipitate the creature's leap and so, carefully drawing my revolver from my pocket, I fired pointblank.

Through the powder-smoke, I saw the thing shrink into itself and then, toppling slowly backward, it fell through the open lid of the stove. There was a rasping, sizzling sound rapidly fading away into silence.

"It's fallen down the pipe," I cried, conscious that my hands were now shaking under a strong reaction. "Are you all right, Holmes?"

He looked at me and there was a singular light in his eye. "Thanks to you, my dear fellow!" he said soberly. "If I had moved, then—but what is that?"

A door had slammed below and, in an instant later, we caught the swift patter of feet upon the gravel path.

"After him!" cried Holmes, springing from the door. "Your shot warned him that the game was up. He must not escape!"

But fate decreed otherwise. Though we rushed down the stairs and out into the fog, Theobald Wilson had too much start on us and the advantage of knowing the terrain. For a while we followed the faint sound of his running footsteps through the empty lanes towards the river, but at length these died away in the distance.

"It is no good, Watson. We have lost our man," panted Holmes. "This is where the official police may be of use. But listen! Surely that was a cry?"

"I thought I heard something."

"Well, it is hopeless to look further in the fog. Let us return and comfort this poor girl with the assurance that her troubles are now at an end."

"They were nightmare creatures, Holmes," I exclaimed, as we retraced our steps toward the house, "and of some unknown species."

"I think not, Watson," said he. "It was the Galeodes spider, the horror of the Cuban forests. It is perhaps fortunate for the rest of the world that it is found nowhere else. The creature is nocturnal in its habits and, unless its memory bolsters me, it possesses the power actually to break the spine of smaller creatures with a single blow of its mandibles. You will recall that Miss Janet mentioned that the rats had vanished since her uncle's return. Doubtless Wilson brought the brutes back with him; he went on, 'and then conceived the idea of training

by
ADRIAN
CONAN
DOYLE

certain of his canaries to imitate the song of some Cuban night-bird upon which the Galeodes fed. The marks on the ceiling were caused, of course, by the soot adhering to the spiders' legs after they had scrambled up the flues. It is fortunate, perhaps, for the consulting detective that the dust of the average housemaid seldom strays beyond the height of a mantelpiece.

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I spun round to be greeted by a spectacle that I shall remember for the rest of my days. Sherlock Holmes was standing perfectly still within two feet of the stove and on top of it, reared up on its back legs, its loathsome body shuddering for the spring, stood another monstrous spider.

I knew instinctively that any sudden movement would merely precipitate the creature's leap and so, carefully drawing my revolver from my pocket, I fired pointblank.

Through the powder-smoke, I saw the thing shrink into itself and then, toppling slowly backward, it fell through the open lid of the stove. There was a rasping, sizzling sound rapidly fading away into silence.

"It's fallen down the pipe," I cried, conscious that my hands were now shaking under a strong reaction. "Are you all right, Holmes?"

He looked at me and there was a singular light in his eye. "Thanks to you, my dear fellow!" he said soberly. "If I had moved, then—but what is that?"

A door had slammed below and, in an instant later, we caught the swift patter of feet upon the gravel path.

"After him!" cried Holmes, springing from the door. "Your shot warned him that the game was up. He must not escape!"

But fate decreed otherwise. Though we rushed down the stairs and out into the fog, Theobald Wilson had too much start on us and the advantage of knowing the terrain. For a while we followed the faint sound of his running footsteps through the empty lanes towards the river, but at length these died away in the distance.

"It is no good, Watson. We have lost our man," panted Holmes. "This is where the official police may be of use. But listen! Surely that was a cry?"

"I thought I heard something."

"Well, it is hopeless to look further in the fog. Let us return and comfort this poor girl with the assurance that her troubles are now at an end."

"They were nightmare creatures, Holmes," I exclaimed, as we retraced our steps toward the house, "and of some unknown species."

"I think not, Watson," said he. "It was the Galeodes spider, the horror of the Cuban forests. It is perhaps fortunate for the rest of the world that it is found nowhere else. The creature is nocturnal in its habits and, unless its memory bolsters me, it possesses the power actually to break the spine of smaller creatures with a single blow of its mandibles. You will recall that Miss Janet mentioned that the rats had vanished since her uncle's return. Doubtless Wilson brought the brutes back with him; he went on, 'and then conceived the idea of training

"Remember the padlocked cover of the stove in the cellar and the cold Yarrow that offered to fetch the key. It was bluff of course, for he would have discovered that he had 'lost' it. Had we persisted and forced that lock, I prefer not to think of what we would have found clinging around our collars."

Theobald Wilson was never home again. But there lies the devilish cunning of the scheme, Watson. It was the sight of the thing rather than its bite, poisonous though it may be, on which he relied to kill his victim. Can you imagine the effect upon an elderly woman, and later upon her son, both suffering from insomnia and heart disease, when in the midst of a bird's seemingly innocent song this appalling spectacle arose from the top of the stove? We have sampled it ourselves, though we are healthy men. It killed them as surely as a bullet through their hearts."

Another new Sherlock Holmes adventure starts on Saturday.

BURMA GIVES HONGKONG A WALKOVER IN THOMAS CUP TOURNAMENT

By "ARGONAUT"

Although an official press release is still due from the Hongkong Badminton Association, it was reliably learned that Hongkong has received a walkover from Burma for their first round tie for the Thomas Cup competition.

The cable to the Hongkong Badminton Association by Burma states that Burma will not be able to field a team and will therefore concede a walkover to Hongkong.

This decision by the All-Burma Badminton Association will undoubtedly cause great disappointment to local players and followers of the game.

It was hardly expected that Burma would withdraw from the tournament at this stage, but it should be noted that they have come over here and are recently as late as last month they

were in active competition in a triangular tournament at Rangoon against All-Burma and the All-Burma team of Bangkok.

If the poor results they obtained in this tournament, it is most regrettable that Hongkong will now meet Japan at Hongkong some time in November to vie for the right to meet the winner of the Thailand-India tie in the Asian Zone final.

Japan is still an unknown quantity and for Hongkong to get through to the next round, preparations in more concrete form will have to be made by the Association, particularly with regard to the training of Hongkong's potential team.

Hongkong will have to play a game some time or other, irrespective of the decision of Burma, and once again it must be impressed that the sooner and the longer that Hongkong's Thomas Cuppers get on to the court for systematic practice and training the better can their performance be whether they win or lose.

The building up of Hongkong's doubles pairs will particularly take a considerable period of time.

LEAGUE MATCHES

In the two Men's "A" Division League matches played last night at the Chinese YMCA and Chinese Club, the Chinese Club won their game with a comfortable margin to draw away to their impending final play-off.

Consistently good form by Bill Funk, who took both his singles sets, and an partnership with Wong Ka-chung both his doubles sets, enabled Craigengower to score a 7-2 triumph over Reorio.

The Valley Club won their deciding set in the sixth game of the evening after leading 4-1, when Funk accounted for Reorio by 15-7 in the singles.

Craigengower enjoyed distinct superiority in the doubles, but

found the Reorio players vastly improved in the singles.

Bernard Brown sprang a major surprise by trouncing the hitherto unbeaten Craigengower third singles player, Jimmy Khoo by 15-5 and Billy Soares outlasted D. C. Lau by 15-9 to score Reorio's second point of the evening.

Chinese YMCA met with stiffer opposition from St. Teresa's, being held to 3-3 before asserting their superiority in the doubles to capture the remaining three sets.

All St. Teresa's three points came from the singles, in which Johnny Pomeroy, Jr. repeated his earlier triumph over W. F. Foo, accounting for his opponent this time by 15-9.

J. C. Koh's powerful amashes pulled him through in his match against Foo by 15-11 and schoolboy Marquez-Lim scored a quick and comfortable 15-5 win over Lam Ming-tak.

THE SCORES

Men's "A" Division

CCC 7, Reorio 2

Singles

Bill Funk (CCC) beat Billy Soares 15-5; beat Francis Rozario 15-7.

D. C. Lau (CCC) lost to Soares 9-15; beat Rozario 15-13.

Jimmy Khoo (CCC) lost to Bernard Brown 5-15.

Doubles

Bill Funk & Wong Ka-chung (CCC) beat Soares & Rozario 21-11; beat H. F. Gonzales & Bernard Brown 21-5.

Robert Tay & Jimmy Khoo (CCC) beat Soares & Rozario 21-18; beat Gonzales & Brown 21-14.

St. Teresa's 3, Chinese YMCA 0

Singles

Johnny Pomeroy (Saints) lost to Ramon Young 6-15; beat W. F. Foo 15-9.

J. C. Koh (Saints) lost to Young 9-15; beat Foo 15-11.

Ed. Marquez Lim (Saints) beat Lam Ming-tak 15-5.

Doubles

Koh & "Spuddy" Motta (Saints) lost to Young & Foo 15-21; lost to Patrick Wong & W. C. Chung 15-21.

Pomeroy & Marquez Lim (Saints) lost to Young & Foo 4-21; lost to Wong & Chung 12-21.

LATEST STANDINGS

Men's "A" Division

CYMA 5, W. L. F. A. 17

CCC 5, 4, 1, 28, 17, 8

St. Teresa 6, 1, 4, 18, 27

Reorio 5, 1, 4, 10, 29, 2

Men's "B" Division

CCC v Tytium

CYMA v Reorio

Gavilan Prepares For Olsen

Summit, New Jersey, Mar. 16.

Walterweight Champion Kid Gavilan went through his first official workout today in preparation for his attempt to wrest the middleweight crown from Bobo Olson at Chicago on April 2.

He sparred two rounds each with Andy Figueroa and Rocky Tomassello. He will box four rounds again tomorrow and then fly to Chicago where he will work out on Wednesday afternoon at the Mid-West Gymnasium.—United Press.

ARGUMENT OVER FOUL LED TO HOMICIDE

Dundee, South Africa, Mar. 15.

An African, Langsa Mafundu, 22, was sent to prison for two years (one year suspended on condition of good behaviour) for culpable homicide during a soccer match.

Mafundu played in a game between two African teams when there was an argument about an alleged foul and another African, Sgabulani, was killed.—China Mail Special.

India Enters The Empire Games

Vancouver, Mar. 15.

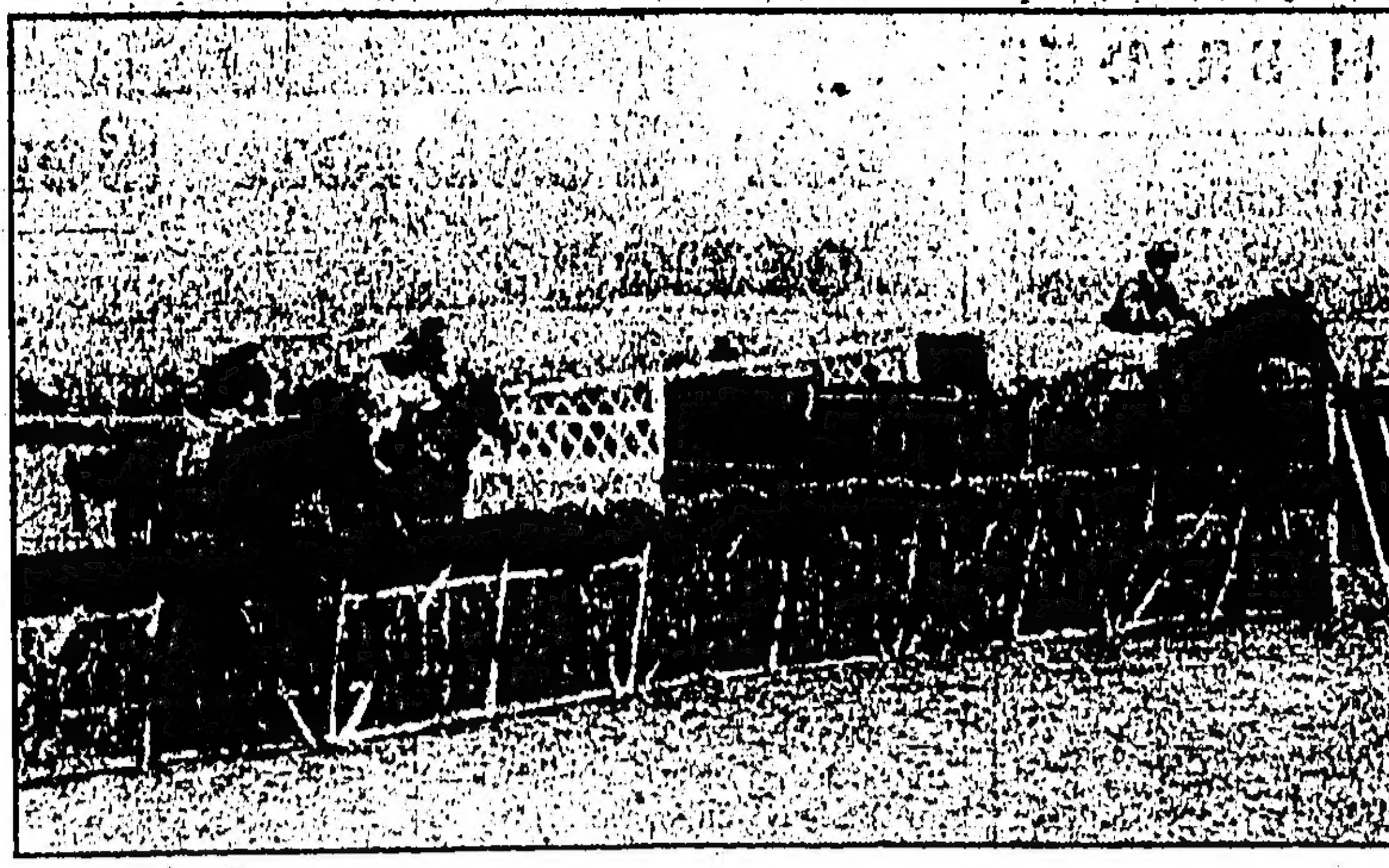
India today entered for the British Empire and Commonwealth games to be held here from July 30 to August 7.

India originally planned to by-pass the games in favour of the Asian Games in Manila, but a telegram arrived here today from Mr. Molnar, Head of the Indian Olympic Association.

The telegram read: "We have just decided to send the team. Number will be determined later."

India's entry brings the total number of countries to be represented to 25.—Reuters.

CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE CUP RACE



Sir Ken, owned by Mr. M. Kingsley and ridden by T. Molony, gained his third consecutive win in the Champion Hurdle Challenge Cup. This picture taken at the last flight shows Impney (M. Pamfrey up) leading from Sir Ken (T. Molony up) and Galatian (P. Tuffe up) partly hidden. Sir Ken under pressure made up ground and won a by length.

THE SPORTS ROUNDABOUT

Next Olympic Soccer Tournament Might Be At Wembley

By W. CAPEL KIRBY & DAVID JACK

The future of team events in the Olympic Games will be decided when the International Olympic Committee meets in Athens in May.

Most important team game as far as Britain is concerned is football. It produces most revenue, provides welcome relief from an overdose of track events, and is always a sure bet for a good argument.

The 1950 Games will be held in Australia—a country where Soccer is well down the list of popular sports.

Last time the Olympics were staged in a non-Soccer country—Los Angeles, 1932—there was no football tournament.

That could happen in 1950, but a much better idea would be to preserve continuity by staging the Olympic football in Europe.

That would eliminate the rumour bound to occur if 20 or so of our best amateurs were taken away from their clubs for two months in the middle of the season.

Would the Football Association back a proposal that the Melbourne Olympic Soccer be played at Wembley?

When Bolton Wanderers are staying in London, manager Bill Ridding often watches schoolboy football in preference to window-gazing in the West End.

That's how he spotted Dennis Stevens playing for Birmingham Schools against London at White Hart Lane on the morning of the Bolton visit to Stamford Bridge.

Unless we were very much mistaken, that bit of shopping was worth every penny of £20,000 to the Trotters who got an inside-forward certain to wear an England shirt one of these days.

SURPRISING

We were surprised to hear that Plymouth Argyle, fighting for survival in the Second Division, turned down the chance of signing experienced wing half-cum-inside forward Doug Blair from Cardiff City.

Blair, who has moved to Totnes, was offered at the giveaway price of £3,000.

Now our tip is that he'll go to Exeter City.

Bill Lomax, Wigan Athletic centre-forward, who has netted more than 200 goals for the club, including two against Newcastle United in the Cup, will not add to his tally of 38 this season while working as a British Railways employee at Horwich Loco Works, a metal box of sand fell on his foot and broke two toes.

Harry Mattinson was Preston North End's skipper and regular centre-half in the 1950-51 promotion season. Then a broken leg gave Joe Marston his chance and, although Mattinson is again fit, he finds himself in Central League Soccer.

HKFC TEAM

The following will represent Club in their First Division match against Eastern on Thursday at 5 p.m. at Club: Campbell, Armstrong, Tarpey, MacDonald, Forrow, Falconer, Paton, Mullen, McGregor, Gardner, Plettering, reserves, Plank, Mulden, Jones.

WEST BROMWICH EVEN FAVOURITES TO WIN THE CUP

London, Mar. 15.

West Bromwich Albion, the English First Division leaders, were made even money favourites to win the Football Association Challenge Cup at a callover by bookmakers at the Victoria Club here tonight.

Their semi-final opponents, Port Vale, who lead the Third Division (North) were quoted at 100 to 7.

Other prices were: 7 to 2 Preston North, 10 to 1 Bolton Wanderers, 10 to 1, Sheffield Wednesday, 10 to 1, Leicester City.

West Bromwich Albion, the League leaders and favourites for the Cup, play Port Vale, the shock team of the year, on Aston Villa's ground.

The other semi-final between Leicester City and Preston North End and Sheffield Wednesday or Bolton has been arranged for Manchester City's ground.

Port Vale, who are only the second team from the Third Division to reach the semi-finals, thus meet First Division opponents for the third time in the tournament. They have previously beaten Cardiff and Blackpool, the holders.

Port Vale have built their success on a strong defence which has conceded only 17 goals in 39 Cup and League games. It should be an intriguing battle between this solid defence and the tremendous attacking power of West Bromwich Albion.

Victory for West Bromwich would carry them a step nearer

the double of a Cup win and the League Championship in one season, a feat last accomplished by Aston Villa in 1897.

PORT VALE WIN

Port Vale, the FA Cup semi-finalists, strengthened their position at the head of the English League III (Northern) section with a 2-0 win over Halifax Town today.

The match was re-arranged from last Saturday.—Reuter.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sydney, Mar. 15.

John Landy of Australia, the world's third fastest Miller, has been nominated for the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Vancouver this year.

—China Mail Special.

London, Mar. 15.

Cambridge University will have their first full course trials in boat race practice on Wednesday.

Oxford have theirs on Thursday. The race is on April 3.—China Mail Special.

Melbourne, Mar. 15.

An assurance that future South African lawn tennis teams will be "quite looked after" in Australia is to be given the Union's Lawn Tennis Association.

This was decided by the Australian LTA Council today.

They are to write the South African Association expressing regret over the selection of a team which was not Australia's best.—China Mail Special.

Melbourne, Mar. 16.

For the first time, Australia's Wimbledon-bound tennis team will play exhibition matches at Darwin.

The Lawn Tennis Association of Australia Council accepted the invitation from the Northern Territory Lawn Tennis Association yesterday.

The team—Lewis Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Mervyn Rose, Rex Hartwig, Neale Fraser, Roy Emerson, Ashley Cooper, and the Manager, Mr. Harry Hopman—will leave Sydney by air in two planes on May 6 and May 7.—China Mail Special.

Draw For The Scottish Cup Semi-Finals

Glasgow, Mar. 15.

The draw for the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup made here today resulted as follows:

Patrick Thistle or Motherwell versus Celtic at Hampden Park on Saturday, March 27.

Aberdeen versus Rangers at Hampden Park on Saturday, April 10.

Aberdeen and Glasgow Rangers, drawn to meet in the semi-final of this year's competition, clashed in the final last year when Rangers narrowly won by one goal to nil after a replay.

Celtic, another great Glasgow Cup fighting side, will not know their semi-final opponents until after the replay on Wednesday between Motherwell and Partick at Motherwell.

Motherwell, sole survivors from Division "B" who won the Scottish Cup two seasons ago.—Reuter.

CHALLENGING

Preston North End's all-action wing half Tom Docherty has made a great come-back from injury, and he looks like challenging Bobby Evans for a position in Scotland's International XI.

Strange to think that Docherty and Evans were club-mates at Celtic and the Scottish club sold Docherty for £3,000 because he wasn't big enough.

Somerset County Cricket Club, determined to get away from the foot of the county championship table, report a "full house" of trialists for net practice, Bristol City inside forward John Atkey, a seam bowler with Frome C.C., is one of them.

Rhyl FC Chairman Tommy Cookson tells us there's a nice house and a nice salary waiting for a player-coach with the Cheshire League club. Rhyl are also looking for a manager.

Our reference to Stan Matthews being the oldest player to appear in a Cup Final brought several protests, all of which claimed John Oakes was 32 when he played for Charlton Athletic against Derby County in 1945-46.

For confirmation or otherwise we contacted The Valley and were told John Oakes' date of birth was September 24, 1909, that would make him a youngster of 30 for the Derby Final.

Signing of Billy Puntum from Portadown is only one of several transfer moves being made by Newcastle United in Northern Ireland.

Newcastle have also contacted Distillery about inside-forward Brian Moore and Glenioran for wing half Billy Neill.

Moore is interesting Aston Villa, too, but Distillery are in no hurry to part.

ASTOUNDING

W. D. Packwood, a member of Kenton Cricket Club from 1921 to 1946, is looking forward to the new cricket season—at the age of 64. Now living in Dorset, he hopes to add to his 3,000-plus wicket-taking record.

At the proposal of Mr. Skinner, the Council authorised the Treasurer, Mr. L. G. Young, to make tentative arrangements for a Colony team to tour Europe

in 1955 to gain experience for the Olympics.

The Council yesterday also:

1. Postponed the second Governor's Cup match, between Britain and China, from March 21 to 28, because of the inter-port series with Manila.

2. Invited clubs and schools to make application for the services of Mr. Tom Sneddon, the official football coach.

3. Permitted First Division teams to arrange among themselves to play double-headers.

4. Refused the transfer of a Second Division "A" C.A.A. player to Second Division "B" Division.

5. Fixed the next Council meeting for April 12 and an extraordinary meeting to proceed if immediately.

6. Elected Mr. Raleigh Long to the Management and Grounds sub-committee and Mr. K. K. Ip to the Selection sub-committee, in place of Mr. Henry Fung, who is on vacation abroad.

Mr. Skinner, criticising the number of bar chits signed by managers of certain representative teams, suggested that Council members henceforth be appointed managers of such teams.

Mr. Channing replied that Council members would find it expensive to manage a Chinese representative team. "They want a good time before the match, and if they win another good dinner in the evening. It's an old custom."

MATCH POSTPONED

The First Division match between Kwong Wah and Army originally set for this afternoon at Club has been postponed.

The other match, between Kwloon Motor Bus and Police, will be held at 4.45 p.m. at Carillon Club as scheduled.

Two Hongkong Swimmers Selected For The Asian Games

Breaststroke champion Tsigg Rit-wan was last night chosen to represent Hongkong in the 200 metres at the Asian Games to be held in Manila next May.

This was decided at an executive committee meeting of the Hongkong Swimming Association.

The committee also chose free style champion Cheung Kin-man despite his trial time of 00.3 secs for the 100 metres, three-tenths of a second slower than standard.

It was pointed out at the meeting that if Cheung could do that time with the weather conditions as they were at the recent trials he was certain to make the grade at Manila.

Discussing women's performances at the trials, the committee decided to give Irene Chow and Teresa Giles a further trial under better conditions.

As a result of an invitation from the Empire Games committee a swimmer will go to Canada. Selection will be decided after the results of the Asian Games.

Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1953 showed that the Association had a surplus of income over expenditure of \$4,409.

The Council meeting of the HKASA will be held on April 9 and the annual general meeting on April 23.

Yesterday's meeting was presided over by Mr. A. de O. Sales, with Mr. Harry Wintz as Secretary.

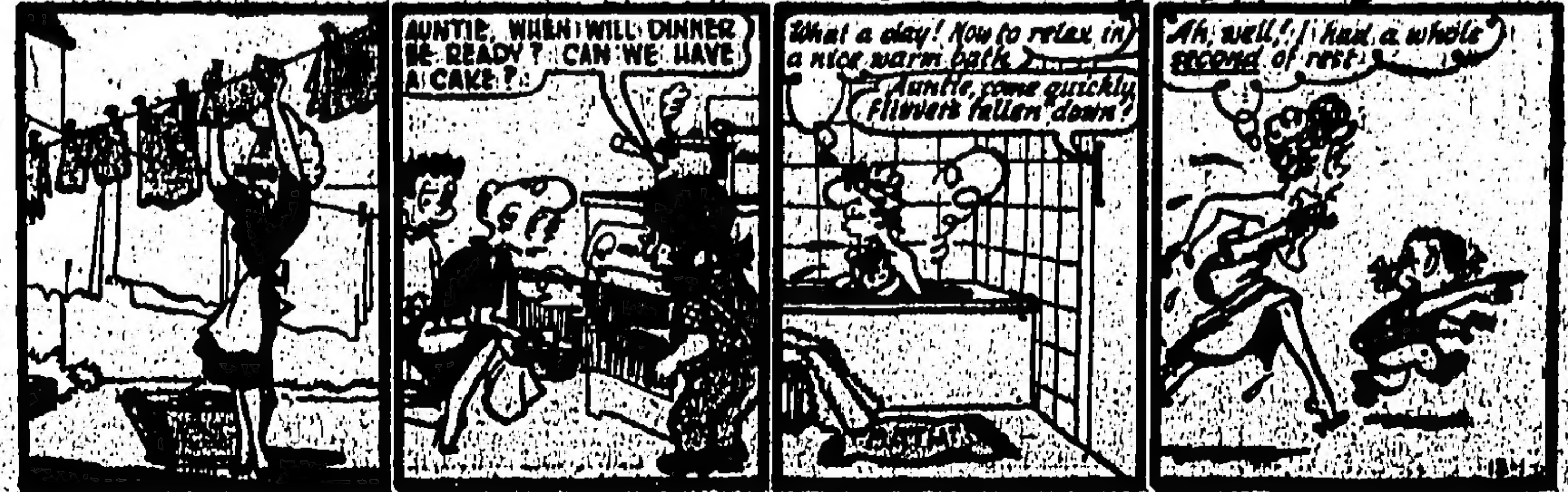
"Bayer's" TONIC

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THE GAMBOLS



POINT 33

"ALL WILL COME OUT IN THE WASHING"

Cervantes, Don Quixote

... all except the colour if you use

Point 33

Blarney Stone Seven-a-Side Tournament

By "PAK LO"

Yesterday evening at the Club ground the final second round games of the Blarney Stone Seven-a-Side tournament were played off. The main interest lay in the Club "A" team and Wayfoong.

Both won their games but the Club did not settle down, and their scores were individual efforts.

Wayfoong on the other hand showed a very marked improvement over Saturday and should have little trouble getting to the fourth round and possibly into the finals.

HMS Dampier 0, REME "Exiles" 21
This was one of the best HEMS teams seen so far and they had no trouble in winning this game. Dampier was definitely outclassed. This is, therefore, the only REME team now left in the competition and they meet Club "A" in the next round.

REME "Casuals" 3, RAF (Kai Tak) "B" 6
This was a rather scrappy game and each side scored so that extra time had to be played. At the end of extra time Britt scored his second try to give the "B" team a win. It is unlikely that this RAF team will overcome Wayfoong in their next game.

Tamar Odds & Sods 0, Club "A" 8
The first try came from angles who ran, kicked ahead and gathered near the line and scored. Farquharson converted. A minute or two later Roberts scored, through a goal run, finishing off with a neat try. Not very impressive as a team but may improve on Wednesday.

REME "Wasps" 0, Wayfoong 20
A much happier looking team were Wayfoong this time, and they soon showed what they could do. Pettie took the ball upfield in a fine dribble and scored. This was followed by a very nice try by Cole.
In the second half Paton scored three times, once mainly through Craig, whose kicking has greatly improved. The Wasps never looked dangerous against this team.

RASC "A" 3, H.K. Signal Regt. 6
This game was the first of the 3rd round to be played off and brings the Signals into the quarter-finals. It was a very evenly matched game until Kibbison got away through the centre and scored. In the closing minutes another good try settled the matter.

MCC BEATS TRINIDAD BY 7 WICKETS

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Mar. 15.

The MCC today beat Trinidad by seven wickets, scoring the necessary 231 runs for victory for the loss of only three wickets.

Bailey made 90 before being caught by Stanger off Deming, while Compton gave a sparkling display for 90 not out, and W. Watson contributed 32 not out.

The second wicket stand between Bailey and Compton put on 142.

Both batsmen were very restrained at the start of the stand, but later battled freely, making strokes all round the wicket.

Final scores:

Trinidad 329 and 232, MCC 331 for 8 declared and 231 for 3.—Reuters.

Farewell To An Old Member

Mr F. E. ("Ted") Lawrence, a life member of the Kowloon Cricket Club and before the war one of the club's leading cricketers, will be presented with a farewell gift at the clubhouse next Saturday evening.

Mr Lawrence is leaving Hong Kong shortly on retirement.

In connection with Saturday's event, the club has organised a barbecue, starting at 8.30 p.m., and during the evening HMS Newcastle will entertain the company. Members desiring to attend the function should book at the clubhouse without delay.

HOME RUGGER RESULTS

London, Mar. 15.
Rugby Union results today were:

Paignton 3, Neath 23
Pontypool 6, Meirion 0
Llanelli 9, Aberavon 9
Glasgow Academicals 24, Oxford University 3.—Reuters.

GETTING READY



H. M. C. Quirk, the President, shows his effort in his face as he pulls with the Oxford crew at Wallingford during training for the 100th race against Cambridge over the traditional course between Putney and Mortlake on April 3. — (Central Press Photo).

GENTLE MOYA WILL STAY IN THE 'NATIONAL'

Says RICHARD BAERLEIN

Royal Tan, Queen's Taste, Clearing and Churchtown were the four Grand National horses suggested for Spring Doubles three weeks ago. But Royal Tan is the only one to have given us any encouragement.

I was taking a chance with Clearing, who had then been out only once this season. Since then, at Worcester and Cheltenham, he has given two disappointing displays and must be dropped.

Queen's Taste was pulled up in the mud at Cheltenham, but his trainer has told us to take no notice of that race as a "National" trial, for his horse has never been able to get in the mud. Queen's Taste has doubled in price.

TECHNICAL OFFENCE

Churchtown was disqualified on a technical offence from second place at Birmingham, but has shortened to 20-1.

Royal Tan is the only one to have acquitted himself with credit and his performance at Cheltenham was first class. There is still time for him to start favourite for the Grand National.

In place of Clearing, I would substitute Gentle Moya. The two mares which have won the Grand National since the war, Sheila's Cottage and Nickel Coin, were both nine-year-olds.

Gentle Moya is eight years old. Last season her only victory was over three miles at Sedgemoor. This year she has improved out of all knowledge.

LAST CHALLENGE

Last time out over four miles at Newcastle she came with a late challenge to take the lead approaching the last fence and won handsomely.

It was not a high-class field, but they were useful handicappers and proved that Gentle Moya could stay the distance.

She had been third to Persian Pageant and Queen's Taste over three and a half miles at Haydock and, of all the horses with bottom weight in this year's Grand National, none makes greater appeal than this mare.

It is true that in Haydock running she has no chance with Queen's Taste, who has to give only 3lb. at Liverpool. At Haydock the difference was 11lb.

She is quoted at 40-1 for the "National," and must be one of the best outsiders.

'LINCOLN' SUPPORT

Of the Lincolnshire Handicap horses, Charles Manners continues to attract fair support. He has not yet been backed for.

KCC TEAM

Kowloon Cricket Club will be at home to Indian Recreation Club in a First Division League match on Saturday, commencing at 1.30 p.m.

The KCC team will be: B. C. N. Carnell, H. Chamberlain, D. Coffey, W. M. Davidson, S. V. Gittins, P. Hall, R. C. Jenner, A. T. Lee, R. B. Lee, P. Wood, A. Zimmerman. 12th man: C. M. Gifford. Score: Mrs H. Chamberlain.

THE POST-WALKER CUP GET-TOGETHER MAY END THE GOLF 'WAR'

By DEREK JOHN

British and American golf are separated by the flight-conquered air, the Atlantic, and a tiny fraction of ball diameter. For the "get-together" the first two present no difficulty, but it may be the very deuce getting over that fractional difference that remains the outstanding snag in international legal uniformity.

Officially, however, the attempt to remove it in one way or another has been lined up, and when the U.S. Walker Cup team comes early next year their top legislators will be with them to talk ball business with the R. and A.

At the moment the Americans will have nothing to do with the British ball and have in unfortunately undiplomatic terms outlawed its use (except for internationals).

It looks, if the countries are to achieve complete uniformity of balls, as if Britain will have to come into line with the larger American ball. If not some compromise scrapping the present specifications in both countries will have to be worked out.

THE BACKGROUND

What, briefly, is the background to the problem? Here is the present history: 1921—R. and A. legalised the ball of 1.620 in. maximum weight and 1.620 in. maximum diameter to limit the disturbing length factor. The U.S. were in agreement.

1929—U.S. on their own decided for a ball that would be "easier and pleasanter" for the average golfer.

1931 (for a year)—Only legal ball in the States was one of 1.550 in. and 1.68 in.

1932—U.S. adopted a ball of 1.620 in. (same maximum weight as British) and 1.68 in. diameter.

1948—Canada officially adopted the last-mentioned U.S. specifications.

INTERMITTENTLY

Meantime investigations have been going on in Britain intermittently into the ball question, but the 1921 specification still stand.

There has been no change, and when just after the last war a proposal for falling into line with the American-size ball was put up by the members of the R. and A., the majority of whom the general golfing public do not know, decided for a "better" standard for a few years. Their decision was hailed by many as a victory for the average golfer.

There may well be a different attitude now to some change for a ball that will not punish so much to the sugary merchants, the power golfers who can hit it out of sight.

any heavy sums but I understand that the money is coming from the right quarter. Bonyon Scott is also sure to harden now that this well-handicapped gelding has the right jockey in young Philip Poval.

—(London Express Service)

IRISH IRE AROUSED

"Cunning Attempt To Give An Imperialist Game A National Complexion"

Dublin, Mar. 15.

A Saint Patrick's Day broadcast to Irishmen overseas has been cancelled because partisans of two rugged Irish sports — Gaelic football and hurling — have protested at the inclusion of a commentary on the "alien and imperialist" game of Association football.

Radio Eireann's plan to include the soccer commentary was denounced by the President of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), Mr V. O'Donoghue, as an insult to the nation.

"We will refuse to be associated with this cunning attempt to give an Imperialist game a national complexion," he declared.

The two-hour Radio Eireann programme, set for next Wednesday, was to have been relayed by Radio Brezaville, French station in Equatorial Africa.

Radio Eireann planned to switch to a short description of a soccer match during the interval of a commentary on a hurling cup final, which they arranged to broadcast from Groke Park, Dublin.

"WITH SHAME"
Another statement from GAA headquarters noted "with shame" that a commentary on Irish on the Gaelic football final—also at Groke Park—was to be omitted from the Brezaville relay.

The GAA is an ardent champion of national sports. Members are prohibited from attending "foreign" games such as cricket, hockey and soccer.

The Gaelic game is known to have been popular in Dublin in 1627.

In the old days, teams were unlimited. All able-bodied Irishmen of one town would play against those of another.

"Because punching of the ball was permitted, a great many eyes were blacked, noses broken and mouths cut by players who seemingly aimed their punches at the ball, but actually drove firm into enemy faces," one historian of the sport comments.

The Gaelic, which exists to revive the Irish language and supports the GAA, chimed in with the assertion that broad-casting of Association football and ignoring the national language could only confirm foreign elements in the belief that Ireland was a province of England.

—China Mail Special

Island Beat Mainland At Fanling

An interesting golf match was played over 36 holes at Fanling on Sunday between teams representing Royal Hongkong Golf Club members resident on the Island and those residing in Kowloon and the New Territories.

The Island led by seven points victory of twelve and a half at lunch time and this lead points to eight. The match finished 22½ to 20 Mainland players in the afternoon in favour of the Islanders, in spite of their fine four-ball dividend scores being as follows:

SINGLES	
Island	Mainland
T. F. R. Waters	H. R. de Pinna
P. F. E. Watkinson	C. P. Bato
J. L. Kay	E. C. Brown
L. C. Saville	A. V. White
A. Lindsay	A. E. Elliott
A. D. Duffy	W. Rees
K. M. Almoo	R. Haste
D. Galois	P. Simer
H. Willoquet	P. A. Laroche
D. L. Anderson	A. H. Petrie
W. N. Gray	R. G. Crie
J. B. Wilson	Dr. A. Shoemaker
Austin Ho	F. C. M. Reeves
H. Coleman	A. MacDonald
D. Shaw	H. G. Smith
R. D. Bell	L. P. Stokes
R. E. Cole	A. G. Barnett
R. Math	C. D. Elrick
John Wai	H. Liang
R. Pan	J. F. Shoemaker
14½	7½

FOURBALLS	
Island	Mainland
Waters/Watkinson	Pinna/Bato
Kay/Saville	White/Brown
Duffy/Almoo	Rees/Haste
Galois/Willoquet	Laroche/Simer
Anderson/Gray	Stokes/Reeves
Wilson/Ho	MacDonald/Smith
Coleman/Shaw	Stokes/Dunnett
Math	Elrick
Wai/Liang	Shoemaker/Kill
Lindsay/Blacklock	Kill/Robertson
14½	7½

J. Dickson Leach won the week-end Boney pool on the Old Course with a return of one down and J. McCausland was runner-up with three down.

The best Medal scores returned during the week-end were the following: M. S. Robertson 78-11-nett 67; J. W. Green 82-24-nett 68; C. P. Bato 84-24-nett 70; J. Dickson Leach 81-0-nett 72.

LADIES' MATCH ARRANGED

The ladies of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club have invited the ladies of Shek-O to a match at Fanling on Thursday, March 18.

Starting times will be drawn on the day of play and players are asked to arrive at Fanling not later than 10.30 a.m. The rail bus will be running from Kowloon for golfers on that day at the usual ladies' day time, i.e. leaving Kowloon at 9.15 a.m. and returning from Sheung Shui at 5 p.m. Tickets for this service may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary—Ladies' Section, who will be at the platform, Kowloon Railway Station at 9.05 a.m.

Play in this match will be a "Sunningdale" with no handicap allowance.

The draw is as follows: RHKGC players named first: Mrs A. S. Mitchell (Captain) v Mrs C. B. Sinclair (Convenor); Mrs L. H. Robinson v Mrs Dawson-Grove; Mrs K. S. Robinson v Mrs H. J. Armstrong; Mrs C. Hayes v Mrs W. N. Gray; Mrs M. Reeves v Mrs H. R. Cleland; Mrs A. B. Coleman v Mrs J. Gray; Mrs F. G. Harrison v Mrs J. P. Harrington; Mrs J. B. Mackie v Mrs S. Standoff; Mrs M. Turnbull v Mrs E. J. Cowell; Mrs R. R. Coombs v Mrs W. P. Birtwhistle; Mrs J. R. Collis v Mrs A. H. Saunders; Mrs M. Vaughan v Mrs F. D. Hunter; Mrs L. Goldman v Mrs S. M. Backe; Mrs C. Riddin v Mrs R. W. Taplin; Mrs S. S. Gordon v Mrs E. Hutcheon; Mrs D. L. Anderson v Mrs J. G. Byington; Mrs M. Hung v Mrs N. K. Latimer; Mrs P. A. Laroche v Mrs H. Barton; Mrs J. F. Shoemaker v Mrs M. L. Neale.

LADIES v RAF

A return match between the Ladies' Section and an RAF team was played at Fanling on Thursday, March 10 and this resulted in another victory for the ladies by 11½ points to 3½. Results of individual games were as follows, R.A.F. players named first:

F/O Brown v P. Robinson 1; W/C McLaughlin v M. Mackie 1; S/L Imrie v P. Coombs 1; F/L Hull v D. Dawson-Grove 1; F/L Leigh Bennett v C. Robertson 1; F/L Crichton v A. Hayes 1; W/C Read v L. Harrison 1; S/L Houghton v M. Reeves 1; A/C Field v D. Mitchell 1; Maj. Slater v D. Birtwhistle 1; S/L de la Haye v M. Vaughan 1; S/L Cullen v D. Armstrong 1; F/L Adams v M. Gray 1; F/L Hutton v B. Anderson 1½.

English And Irish Horses To Run In The Belmont International Steeplechase

New York, Mar. 15.

Four of the top horses in England and Ireland have been entered in the Belmont International Steeplechase at New York on May 8, President S. Bryce Wing of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association said today, and two other European horses may be entered later.

Mr Stephen Clark, Vice-President of the Association, left Europe today after a tour on which he issued invitations to Europe's best "Chase" runners.

Mr Wing talked to Mr Clark by trans-Atlantic phone to get the list of entries.

Knock Hard, a 10-year-old, and eight-year-old Nico Werk are the two from Ireland. Paler Caswell, National Hunt trainer for the Royal Family, is sending

two horses from England—H. J. Vorrall's Camperi, a seven-year-old, and Guy Lawrence's eight-year-old Rose Park.

While Mr Clark has not yet had final and official word, he is sure that France also will have two entries—Camwell Laird, a four-year-old owned by Madame Lucien Chailgous, and Forfeth, a four-year-old owned by Edouard Gugenheim.—United Press.

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"SHENGKING"	Keelung	6 p.m. 17th Mar.
"ANKING"	Singapore, Penang & Belawan	10 a.m. 18th Apr.
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* Sails from Cantonian Wharf.		
ARRIVALS FROM		
"HUPEI"	Tientsin	19th Mar.
"SIENKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 22nd Mar.
"PAHOI"	Shanghai	22nd Mar.

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ARRIVALS FROM		
"CHANGSHA"	Kobe	28th Mar.

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"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	6th Apr.
"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.
"ANTIOCHUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Apr.

Scheduled sailings from Europe

Sails		
"PATROCLUS"	Liverpool	10th Mar.
"ALCINOUS"	do	28th Mar.
"ANTIOCHUS"	do	1st Apr.
"CYCLOPS"	do	7th Apr.
"PERSEUS"	do	13th Apr.
"ALCIBADES"	18th Mar.	22nd Apr.
"ANTIOCHUS"	24th Mar.	2nd May
"CYCLOPS"	3rd Apr.	9th May

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"AGAMEMNON"	25th Mar.	16th May
	17th Apr.	3rd June

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HK/Hanoi/Hatphong	(DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4)	7:00 a.m. Thursday
HK/Bangkok/Bangkok/Calcutta	(DC-4)	12:00 noon Friday

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Sails	Mar. 26	for Kobe & Yokohama.

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Arrives	Apr. 3	from Japan.
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NOTICE

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Branch will be held in the Air Force Club on Thursday 25th March 1954, at 1730 hours.

All Members of the R.A.F. Association whether registered with the Hong Kong Branch or not are invited to attend.

S. G. SMITH, Hon. Secretary.

NOTICE

THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LIMITED.

Notice to Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Shareholders of The Hongkong & Shanghai Hotels, Limited, will be held at the Registered Office of the Company (Second Floor, Telephone House, Des Voeux Road Central, Hongkong), on Friday, 19th March, 1954 at 12 Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Board of Directors together with the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1953, to elect a Director and to appoint Auditors.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 6th March, 1954 to the 19th March, 1954, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board, A. SOMMERFELT, Secretary.

Hongkong, 17th Feb., 1954.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CIF DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES Consignees per Company's m/v "LA MARSEILLAISE"

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co.'s godowns. Where it will be at Consignees' risk and conditions of storage and where delivery may be obtained as soon as the goods are landed.

Damaged packages are to be left in the Godown for examination by Consignee and the Company's surveyors. Messrs. Goddard & Douglas 11 a.m. on Saturday, 20th March, 1954.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after 25th March, 1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the undersigned on or before 14th April, 1954, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

CIF DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES Hongkong, 16th March, 1954.

NOTICE

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice to Shareholders

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sixty-First Ordinary Yearly Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the Company's Registered Office, 4th Floor, P. & O. Building, on Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1954, at 11 a.m. for the purpose of receiving and considering the Reports of the Directors and of the Auditors and the Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December, 1953, and the Balance Sheet as at that date and for the election of Directors and the appointment of Auditors.

The Register of Transfers of the Company will be closed from Saturday, the 6th day of March, to Thursday, the 18th day of March, 1954, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board, GIBB, LIVINGSTON & COMPANY, LIMITED, Agents.

Hongkong, 22nd Feb., 1954.

To ADVERTISERS

SUNDAY POST-HERALD Space for commercial advertising should be booked not later than noon on Wednesdays.

For the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST and the CHINA MAIL 48 hours before date of publication. Special Announcements and Classified Advertisements as usual.

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HONGKONG to CASABLANCA in 30 days. "ANADYR" sailing March 18th "IRAOUADY" sailing April 22nd

Seminar 'On Public Enterprises Opened

Rangoon, Mar. 16. The Burmese Minister for National Planning, U. Win, today formally opened a seminar on the organization and administration of public enterprises.

The seminar is jointly sponsored by the Burmese Government, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE), the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences.

Representatives of Burma, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Cambodia, France, Japan, the Philippines and the United Kingdom and China attended. Israel and Soviet Russia sent observers.

Governments and United Nations agencies have prepared more than 100 discussion papers and information memoranda for the seminar, mostly describing conditions for the growth of public enterprises in the ECAFE region, and the problems and difficulties experienced.

The agency provides for the discussion of trends in the development of public enterprises, types of organization suitable for public industrial undertakings, organizational relationship within Governmental structure, the financing of public enterprises, commercial questions, and problems of internal administration and public relations.

The seminar is expected to last until March 28. It is the outcome of a request from ECAFE countries for study and analysis of some of the problems confronting public industrial enterprises.—Reuter.

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"CORFU"	Leaves London	Due Hongkong 6th April
"CHUBAN"	19th March	17th April
"CANTON"	1st April	4th May
Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore		
Homewards		
"CORFU"	Leaves Hongkong	Due London 9th April
"CHUBAN"	19th April	10th May
"CANTON"	2nd May	31st May
"CANTON"	12th May	12th June

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards		
"SOMALI"	Arriving	From U.K. via Straits
Homewards	21st March	For
"SINGAPORE"	8th April	Singapore, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang, Malacca, Hong Kong, Amoy, Shanghai, Peking & Hamburg

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"ANSHUN"	due 10th Mar.	from Calcutta
"SIRDHANA"	due 22nd Mar.	from Japan
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"OZARDA"	In Port	for Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay
"ORDIA"	due 17th Mar.	for Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya & Yokohama
"ORMARA"	due 31st Mar.	for Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah direct. Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay
"ORNA"	due 2nd Apr.	from Persian Gulf
	sails 4th Apr.	for Japan

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO. LTD.

"EASTERN"	due 23rd Mar.	from Japan
	sails 24th Mar.	for Kobe, Osaka, Yokohama, Sydney, Melbourne, & Adelaide
"NELLORE"	due 27th Mar.	from Australia
	sails 28th Mar.	for Japan
"NELLORE"	due 10th Apr.	from Japan
	sails 20th Apr.	for Auckland, Wellington, Sydney & Melbourne

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which are general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mails can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

By Air
Indo-China, France, 8 p.m.
By Surface
Macao, 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
By Air
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 8 a.m.
Indo-China, 8 a.m.
Formosa, Japan, U.S.A., & Canada, 1 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
Formosa, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 8 p.m.
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m.
Thailand, 8 a.m.
Japan, Noon.
Formosa, 1 p.m.
Macao, 2 p.m.
Indo-China, 3 p.m.
Malaya, 3 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

By Air
India, Ceylon, 6 a.m.
Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 10 a.m.
Japan, Noon.
By Surface
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 1 p.m.
Indo-China, 2 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
Philippines, N. Borneo, 6 p.m.
China, People's Republic, 8.30 a.m.
India, Pakistan, Noon.
Macao, 2 p.m.

Fatal Air Crash

Amman, Jordan, Mar. 16. Two Arab Legion officers died today when their training aircraft crashed into a mountain in the desert near Amman.

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NEW
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Page 10 TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1954.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

10th Time Lucky

RICHARD is a big, blustering man who regards the world through eyes screwed up in a kind of permanent wink, addresses the world in a hoarse, croaking voice, and stalks through it with a rolling swagger. The world, says Richard, swaggers owes me something for walking abroad in it, and I'll think the world to acknowledge the debt.

The world, it must be said, seems to have twigged the idea very well, generously helping out in maintaining Richard's family (he has seven children, four of school age) at such times as he has felt disinclined to work.

Sometimes, indeed, when Richard has been in prison, the world has taken over his responsibilities entirely. The world seemed to be in the sort of peril again the other day.

INTENDED TO PAY

RICHARD marched into the dock at the Old Street court and, leaning his elbow on the rail, as though it had been a trolley bar, pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzling £1,158, 11d.

A policeman went into the witness-box to tell Mr. H. F. Sturge, the magistrate, the details. "This man, sir," he said, "was employed on casual work as a lorry-driver. He had to take goods to various of the firm's customers and on this day one of them paid him £1,158, 11d. for the goods delivered."

"The prisoner never handed over the money," said the witness. "He took the £8 wages, and on the following Monday said his daughter was ill, and instead of returning to work, went to the Labour Exchange, and drew £4 there."

"He was then by a police officer yesterday and said he had intended to pay the £1,158, 11d. back."

NINE PREVIOUS

THE magistrate asked the policeman, "Is he known?"

"Yes, sir, there are nine previous convictions," the officer said—and began to recite the most recent, which included sentences for theft, false pretences and receiving.

"Just tell me the other punishments he has received," said the magistrate.

The policeman did so, and from what he said, one fact emerged. Richard, it seems, always been a man who had deserved a fairly sharp punishment for his wrong-doing.

"This man does no regular work," the policeman added. "Only these casual jobs as a driver. His usual income is £4 6s., which he gets from his Labour Exchange and the National Assistance Board."

HIS USUAL INCOME

MR STURGE asked Richard what he had to say.

"It's like this, sir," Richard began, confidentially. "My boy came home on leave from the Army and my wife asked me for some money to give him. I told her to get it out of my overcoat pocket, which she did, but she went to the wrong pocket, where this £1,158, 11d. was. There was six bob in the other pocket. That's what I meant her to take."

His voice became even more confidential. "Look, sir, give me a chance, will you? The wife's going for another operation, and there's the children to think of, sir."

"If anyone ever seemed to ask to be sent to Sessions for sentence it is you," said Mr. Sturge with a sigh. "I shall have to think about this. I'll see you this afternoon."

NOW—AN ASSET?

WHEN Richard was brought back, the magistrate put him on probation for two years. Somehow, as Richard left, his swagger seemed to have moderated, as if he had been a little humbled by being given this chance.

Perhaps the chance would do for him what none of the punishments had, and turn him into a self-supporting family man, a real and not an imaginary asset to the world about him.

Swami Ajarananda, who is en route to Japan to attend a world religious conference early next month, will deliver a lecture in English at the Hindu Temple at 7 p.m. today. He will speak of Hinduism, and on what Hindus should do.

Measures To Abate Kowloon

Smoke Nuisance GREEN ISLAND CEMENT SPENDING \$1,500,000

Referring to the "smoke nuisance" at the annual general meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Ltd., this morning, Mr. H. R. Cleland, the chairman, said that in order to abate the nuisance as far as possible the Company was spending \$500,000 on a Rotary Slurry Filter in addition to \$700,000 on Electrostatic Precipitators.

"By the time we have finished we will have spent nearly \$1,500,000 on measures to abate the smoke nuisance and we hope that this will finally give full satisfaction to the community."

It was disclosed at the meeting, which was held in Telephone House, that the profit for the year ending December 31, 1952, was \$1,379,112, and the following appropriations were made: a dividend of \$2 per share, free of tax, absorbing \$1,200,000; transfers to general reserve \$250,000; bonus to staff \$47,461; carry forward \$236,347.

The Chairman's statement was presented to the meeting in printed form. It read:

It is with deep regret that I have to record the death since our last Meeting of Mr. Li Tse-tong. Mr. Li Tse-tong had been a Director of our Company for 29 years and during all this time his ability and wide experience were of inestimable benefit to our Board. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our high appreciation of his services and of offering our deep sympathy to his Widow and his Family.

We sustained a further loss in the summer in the death of Mr. Fung Ki-cheuk, who had been our Comptroller since before the War. To his Family, too, I would like to extend our condolences in their sad loss.

The falling trend in cement prices which I noted last year continued, except for a short period in the summer, throughout the greater part of the year under review and it was only in the closing months that a measure of stability at lower prices appeared to have been achieved. Falling raw material prices, freight rates and bag costs have gone some way to offsetting lower selling prices, but overall it has been a year of contracting profit margins. Fortunately, so far there has been no sign of a reduction in demand. The total cement consumption in Hongkong has only been slightly less than last year and we have maintained our share of the business, while our exports were some 20% greater.

IMPROVED POSITION

In the result our net profit for the year has fallen to \$1,379,112, but concurrently, due both to the reduced cost of the stocks we have to carry and to the further delay in the arrival of capital items, the cash position has much improved.

Capital Expenditure, including that to which I will be referring in a few moments, amounts to some \$1,500,000 in the next two years, but with precipitators in operation we expect to make a further reduction in both the value and volume of our manufactured stocks which will provide us with most of the money we need this year.

Your Directors, therefore, feel that an Appropriation to General Reserve, drawn partly from this year's profits and partly from the carry forward of \$250,000 will be quite adequate and after paying a will deserved bonus to the Staff they are pleased to recommend the maintenance of the Dividend rate at \$2.00 per share free of tax.

"SMOKE NUISANCE"

I will now say a few words about what is commonly called our "smoke nuisance". Many of you will have read the correspondence upon this subject recently exchanged with the Chairman of the Urban Council and published in the Press at the beginning of February, but I think it will be of interest to all shareholders if I repeat something of what we then said and add a few further remarks. Strictly speaking we do not produce smoke at all in the sense of the unconsumed products of combustion, as a cement rotary kiln is one of the most efficient ways of burning yet devised. What is seen coming from our stacks is principally steam from the large volume of water we use in our process, together with fine dust particles, which are not dangerous to health. There is also sometimes an unpleasant smell. As you know, we are spending about \$700,000 on the installation of Electrostatic Precipitators and they are designed to take out virtually all the dust and smell and should, as a consequence, substantially lessen the plume of steam from our factory. However, there will still be visible steam varying in amount with the humidity, which is particularly high at certain seasons of the year in the climatic conditions of Hongkong. This steam will not be a nuisance to the Public in general, but we are very conscious of our responsibilities towards all those who use the airfield at Kai Tak and we have been working on means whereby we can reduce the amount of steam emission yet further below what we hope to achieve with our Precipitators.

RE-ELECTED

Mr. W. A. Stewart and Mr. H. R. Cleland, who were due to retire by rotation, were re-elected Directors of the Company on the proposition of Mr. E. H. P. White.

The business of the day concluded with the re-appointment of Messrs Lowe Bingham and Matthews as Auditors to the Company for the ensuing year at the fee of \$4,000. The re-appointment was proposed by Mr. Lo Yuk-tong and seconded by Mr. Fung Kwok-sun.

Mr. H. R. Cleland, President, and other Directors present were: Messrs W. A. Stewart, H. Kadoorie, R. P. Moodie and D. Benson, OBE.

BIG TOLL OF TERRORISTS

Nairobi, Mar. 15. Security forces killed 145 Mau Mau terrorists in the past week—the biggest toll of any week since the Emergency began 18 months ago, it was announced here today.

In addition 10 wounded terrorists were captured and 182 suspects detained.

In the same period, 14 African members of the security forces were killed and seven wounded. One European was also wounded.

Seventeen African civilians were killed and one European, one Asian and seven African civilians wounded.—Reuters.

Secret New Submarine



Britain came to the front in the race for a hydrogen peroxide driven submarine when the Royal Navy's latest submarine, Explorer, (above) was named and launched by Lady Reid Young, wife of Sir James Reid Young, chairman of Vickers Armstrongs Ltd. The launching at Barrow, was attended by Admiralty officials and many distinguished guests. Details of the new vessel are a closely guarded secret. It is believed that Explorer will have a long endurance range under water and that she will be the Royal Navy's, if not the world's, fastest.—London Express.

Alleged Breach Of Contract: Appeal Before Full Court

The Full Court comprising the Puisne Judges, Mr Justice C. W. Reece and Mr Justice J. R. Gregg this morning heard an appeal brought by the United Development Co., Ltd. of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Building against the decision of Mr Justice T. J. Gould who gave judgment in part for the plaintiffs and in part for the defendant company (appellants) in six actions involving 11 contracts brought by six paper firms claiming damages for alleged breach of contract.

Appellants were represented by Mr John McNeill, QC, and Mr A. J. Clifford, both on the instructions of Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master.

The three respondent firms named in the appeal were Foo Yau Paper Co., of 38 Bonham Strand East, the Che San and Co., of 63 Des Voeux Road Central, and Kai Tai and Co., of 60 Connaught Road Central. Appearing on their behalf was Mr Charles Loschy, QC, instructed by Stewart and Company.

A cross-appeal has been filed by the Foo Yau Paper Company and the Kai Tai and Company. The contracts on which the original claims were brought involved \$854,500 worth of newspaper. The six plaintiff firms (which included the present three respondents) claimed they bought a total of 1,500 long tons of newspaper from the appellants in 1950 and none was delivered, although some \$185,000 had been paid as deposit.

Appellants had denied liability for the contracts, claiming that for a former employee, Henry Shek, entered into them without any authority and collected the deposits for his own use.

Mr McNeill said that these actions were all actions for damages for alleged breach of contract for the sale of goods. The various plaintiffs sued his clients. In the case of first respondents there were four contracts involved, two were dated in May and two in June, 1950. In the case of the second respondents there was an April contract and a May contract, while in the case of the third respondents there were both May and June contracts.

THE MAIN DEFENCE

In each of these actions the plaintiffs claimed upon a contract or contracts which purported on the face of them to be chopped with the name of the United Development Co., Ltd. and signed by Henry Shek over the word "Manager". Counsel said the main defence denied that such alleged contracts or any of them were made. That defence kept upon the plaintiffs the onus of establishing that such contracts were made by some one authorised to make them on behalf of the appellants.

Counsel went on to say that there was an allegation of a contract, the contract was denied. Counsel said he would give the Court six propositions which would form the main basis for his arguments. "They were," he said: (1) On the pleadings the onus was upon the respondents to show either that Henry Shek had actual authority to sign the contracts or that the appellants were precluded or estopped from denying that he had that authority.

(2) An agent's power to bind his principals was entirely dependent upon actual authority express or implied.

(3) The expression "Agency by estoppel" was a misnomer and was misleading because (4) The actual authority given by a principal and the estoppel of a principal by representation or authority were mutually exclusive.

(5) The scope of authority was a question of fact. (6) In the case of estoppel a plaintiff was bound to show inter alia inducement.

FORMIDABLE TASK

Counsel said that the learned Trial Judge had a formidable task in front of him and when he came nearly to the end of his judgment he had overlooked that vital point which he had put down as No. 3 "Agency by estoppel" as being a misnomer. Mr McNeill said that in his judgment found that there was no representation or reliance upon any representation in respect of any of the actions. In so saying he made a reservation as to any representation being made by Henry Shek. Having made that finding, the Trial Judge went on to ask himself two questions, which were, what if any authority Shek had in fact, or whether the company was estopped by having allowed Henry Shek to represent himself as having authority.

Counsel said that the learned Trial Judge answered the first question in the negative and to the second question he found that Henry Shek was allowed to make a representation that he was the manager.

It was Counsel's submission that the learned Trial Judge had assumed that the expression "agency by estoppel" meant that in some way an agency had been created once estoppel had been found but failed to continue to the necessary step and say "Were these plaintiffs induced to do something by that representation?"

ACTUAL AUTHORITY

Turning to the question of actual authority, Mr McNeill said that third parties could only fix responsibility upon a principal on a contract signed by an agent in two cases, firstly, where there was actual authority, and secondly, where the principal was estopped from denying authority.

Counsel contended that actual authority could be expressed or implied and proceeded to give illustrations to support his argument.

There was no evidence in this case, he said, of what in the paper trade was the scope of the authority of a sales department manager, or of a manager of a limited liability company which had a managing director, Mr S. K. Yee, Mr McNeill submitted.

Hearing is continuing.

MURDER TRIAL

Uncooked Joint Left In Oven

Carmarthen, Wales, Mar. 15.

The prosecution in the murder trial of Ronald Harries, 25-year-old farmer, asked the jury today if a farmer would go on holiday leaving a joint of uncooked meat in the oven.

Harries is alleged to have battered in the head of a distant relative, John Harries, 63, who was found buried with his wife on a farm last November.

The prosecutor, Mr Edmund Davies, said Harries had three times stated that he drove the couple to Carmarthen station where, he said, they were leaving for a holiday.

But Mr Davies said to Harries: "You could kick yourself about one thing in this case. You overlooked the joint of uncooked meat in the oven."

"What housewife or farmer's wife would go away on holiday and do a thing like that?" he asked.

"What housewife with any claim to tidiness and reputation for being house-proud would leave the things found in that house—working clothes on the floor and a pan of dirty water standing in the bath?"

Harries replied to the prosecution, which cross examined him for more than five hours, with charges that the 61 witnesses against him were lying and "don't have good characters."

Mr Vincent Lloyd Jones, defending, asked if Harries, who he said "I am in the right and the truth will always stand, and God is my judge above" was "indulging in the bravado of the blasphemous or giving the sure and certain protestation of innocence of a man who knew he was not guilty."

Mr Justice Havers will sum up on Tuesday.—China Mail Special.

Attempted Murder Charge

Lam Heung-wing, a 57-year-old Kowloon-Canton Railway pensioner of 556 Nathan Road, second floor, was arraigned before Mr Lawrence Leong at Kowloon this morning on a charge of attempted murder.

Lam, who is accused of having wounded Cheng Wai-sum yesterday with intent to murder him, was remanded for three days in Police custody.

Mr K. Y. Yung appeared for defendant.

Cheng Wai-sum, a Chinese film actor, was stabbed while in a restaurant in Kowloon yesterday afternoon.

Bleeding profusely, he was rushed to the Kowloon Hospital where his condition was reported to be serious.

There was no change in condition this morning.

Illegal Distillery

A fine of \$525 or two months and 34 days imprisonment was imposed on 32-year-old Law Yiu, of an unnumbered hut, Nga Choi Hang, by Mr Hin-shing Lo at Central this morning when Law pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a still, distilling Chinese liquor without a licence and possession of distillable Chinese liquor.

The Magistrate dismissed two charges of illegal possession of fermented matter against the defendant, when the Prosecution offered no evidence.

According to the Prosecution, a party of Revenue Officers, acting on information, raided the defendant's premises at 9.30 p.m. on March 15 and found the distilling of Chinese liquor in progress. Two gallons of the liquor were found in a container.

'What's His Line?' Solution
COALMINER
London Express Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"It's because she's suffered that she seems so much older—she's had her tonics cut and a tooth pulled!"

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